Ban of asbestos in Sweden has saved lives

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Incident cases, pleural mesothelioma, Sweden
• “The early-ban group reported the highest burden of asbestos related disease, while the no-ban group recorded the lowest.”

(Kameda et al 2014)
Import of asbestos - Sweden
Hypothesis

- Those who started to work after the ban of asbestos have a lower risk of pleural malignant mesothelioma than those who started before the ban.
Methods, material

- Most persons started to work around 18-20 years of age. Those who were around that age in mid 1970s should have considerable lower exposure to asbestos.

- Incidence of pleural mesothelioma from Swedish Cancer Register
  - Men and women, born in Sweden
  - Stratified for birth cohorts
The difference

- Calculated the number of cases in persons born in Sweden 1955-79 assuming the same risk as those born 1940-9 until 2012.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Observed</th>
<th>Expected</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>108.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>24.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Impact

• The ban/decrease “saved” in 2012
  – 10 cases in men
  – 2 cases in women
  under the age of 57 years

+ cases of lung cancer, asbestosis
Import of asbestos - Sweden

![Graph showing the import of asbestos in Sweden from 1952 to 1987. The graph shows a peak in the early 1970s followed by a sharp decline after a ban was implemented in 1982.]
Import of asbestos - Sweden

Ban of “informed market”

Legal Ban
Main messages

• The decrease of use of asbestos in Sweden have saved lives
  
  – You have to study the non-exposed groups if you will find out effect of ban of asbestos
  
  – “Ban” and “informed market” are important measures to influence the use of asbestos
Emerging evidence that the ban on asbestos use is reducing the occurrence of pleural mesothelioma in Sweden

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Thank you