

**A CASE OF HYPERSENSITIVITY PNEUMONITIS IN A CABLE PRODUCTION WORKER WITH ANTIBODIES TO PHTHALIC ANHYDRIDE**

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Hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP) is a rare, mostly occupational allergic disease of the lung that often remains undiagnosed for a long time. Most of the triggering antigens are organic dusts, only rarely chemicals.

A 59-year-old cable production worker with exposure to plasticisers, especially phthalate esters, complained of recurrent work-related cough and fatigue for 5 years and exertional dyspnoea for 3 years. Despite systemic steroid medication, there was a clear restrictive ventilatory disorder, inspiratory crackles on physical examination, and a reduced oxygen partial pressure at rest and under load. Elevated titres of specific IgG antibodies to phthalic anhydride were detectable. High-resolution computed tomography as well as pathology of lung specimen showed pattern compatible with highly active chronic HP.

In the medical literature, there are indications for plasticiser alveolitis, which we were able to confirm impressively in the present case. Sometimes phthalic anhydride is released during the thermal decomposition of plastics, as in this case during the processing of cables. In rare cases, this can lead to occupational HP.