

LABORATORY AND RADIOGRAPHIC DIFFICULTIES IN MONITORING INDIVIDUALS OCCUPATIONALLY EXPOSED TO CRYSTALLINE SILICA

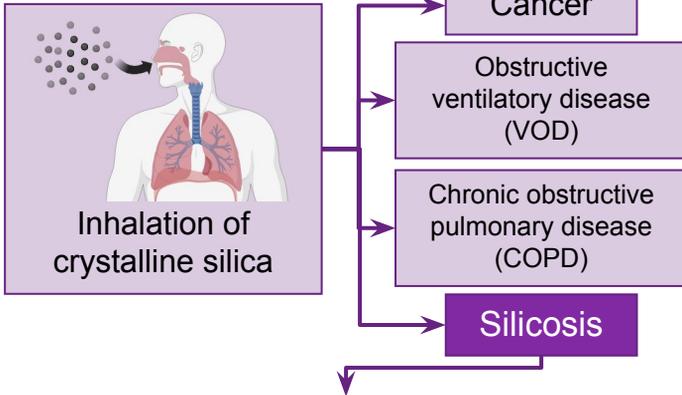
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Introduction

Two million workers are exposed to crystalline silica (CS) every year in Brazil.

CS is a mineral widely present in nature and its occupational exposure is **common among miners**.



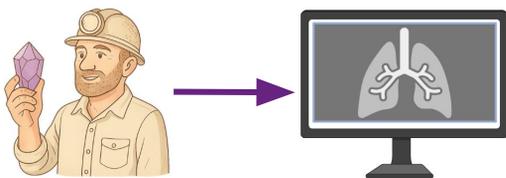
Progressive, incurable lung disease diagnosed exclusively by imaging exams.

Objective

Evaluate health outcomes of **miners from Ametista do Sul (RS, Brazil)** over time using clinical and radiographic data assessed by International Labour Organization (ILO)-certified professionals.

Case report

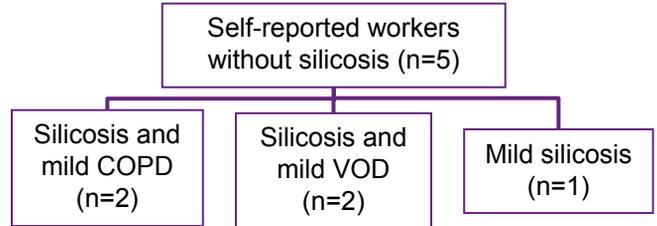
36 out of the 77 miners evaluated had chest X-rays in accordance with ILO standards.



Medical records were **analyzed in 2017** and **reanalyzed in 2021** by **two different ILO-certified professionals**

Five patients reported the absence of silicosis, despite the condition being **documented in their medical records**.

Gap in patient-physician communication



64%

of the miners received **different diagnoses**.

- When evaluated by **two different professionals**;
- Profusion grade assessed in 2021.

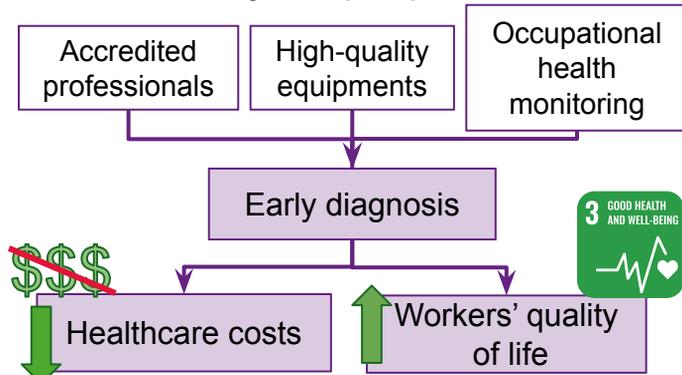
Diagnosis could not be established in

36%

Inadequate image quality

Discussion

The absence of accurate diagnoses results in consequences for **patients** and for the **Brazilian Unified Health System (SUS)**.



Acknowledgements