



Short-term effects of ambient air pollution on emergency room admissions due to cardiovascular causes in Beijing, China

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Ambient air pollution has been a major global public health issue. In recent years, a number of studies have demonstrated the association between ambient air pollution and cardiovascular diseases. A number of studies have shown various adverse effects of ambient air pollution on cardiovascular diseases. In the current study, we investigated the short-term effects of ambient air pollution (PM₁₀, SO₂ and NO₂) on emergency room (ER) admissions due to cardiovascular causes in Beijing from 2009 to 2012 using a time-series analysis. Controlling the confounding factors on cardiovascular diseases such as long time trend, calendar effect and meteorological factors, a generalized additive model (GAM) was used to investigate the short term effects of air pollutants on daily cardiovascular admissions. A total of 82430 ER cardiovascular admissions were recorded. Different gender (male and female) and age groups (15yrs ≤ age <65 yrs and age ≥ 65 yrs) were also examined by single model and multiple-pollutant model. Three major pollutants (SO₂, NO₂ and PM₁₀) had lag effects of 0-2 days on cardiovascular ER admissions. The relative risks (95% CI) of per 10μg/m³ increase in PM₁₀, SO₂ and NO₂ were 1.008 (0.997~1.020), 1.008(0.999~1.018) and 1.014(1.003~1.024), respectively. The effect was more pronounced in age ≥ 65 and males in Beijing. We also found the stronger acute effects on the elderly and females at lag 0 than on the younger people and males at lag 2. The current study strengthens the evidence of effects of air pollution on health.

Keywords: air pollution; emergency room admissions; cardiovascular diseases; time-series