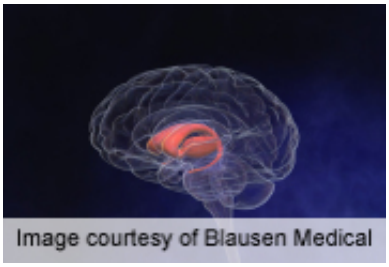
Specific solvents may increase risk of Parkinson's disease

June 27 2012



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(HealthDay) -- Exposure to specific solvents is associated with an increased risk of Parkinson's disease, according to a study published in the June issue of the *Annals of Neurology*.

In effort to assess whether exposure to specific solvents is associated with Parkinson's disease risk, Samuel M. Goldman, M.D., M.P.H., of The Parkinson's Institute in Sunnyvale, Calif., and colleagues conducted a discordant twin pair design study involving 99 twin pairs. Participants were interviewed using detailed job task-specific questionnaires regarding lifetime occupations and hobbies.

The researchers found that exposure to trichloroethylene (TCE) correlated with a significantly increased risk of Parkinson's disease (odds

ratio [OR], 6.1; P = 0.034). There was a trend toward significance for exposure to perchloroethylene (PERC; OR, 10.5; P = 0.053) and carbon tetrachloride (CCl_4; OR, 2.3; P = 0.088).

"Although the present work focused on occupational exposures, solvents are ubiquitous in the environment, and this is particularly true for those implicated in this study -- TCE, PERC, and CCl_4," the authors write. "Our findings require replication in other populations with well-characterized exposures, but the potential public health implications are considerable."

Several authors disclosed financial ties to the pharmaceutical, medical device, and health care industries.

More information: Abstract
Full Text (subscription or payment may be required)