

Alcohol Not the Independent Risk Factor for Lung Cancer

According to a recent study conducted by department of statistics in University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, alcohol is not independently responsible for causing lung cancer. A meta-analysis was conducted to establish the alcohol consumption and lung cancer risk in non-smokers, people who had never smoked in their life.

The role of alcohol consumption alone in causing lung cancer has always been a topic of debate, more so as smoking and drinking are closely associated. The residual perplexed by smoking might prejudice the analysis of relationship between alcohol and lung cancer risk. For this reason, never smokers were chosen for the meta-analysis.

The study was based on literature including numerous case-control and group studies for getting an estimation of the relation between intake of alcohol and risk of lung cancer in people who did not smoke. Around 1913 case studies of never smoker lung cancer patients were observed and it was noticed that the random-effect pooled relative risk for drinkers against non-drinkers was 1.21, while after excluding an outlier study the figure came to be at 1.05. An increase in alcohol consumption by 10 g per day, for the dose-response analysis, brought the relative risk figure to 1.01.

The figured clearly signified that the risk of lung cancer and alcohol intake did not have any relation among non-smokers. Although the interactive effect of smoking and alcohol cannot be discarded, but the results showed that alcohol is not an independent factor in lung cancer aetiology.