



Environmental pollutants and breast cancer: using GIS and environmental sampling in epidemiologic studies.

Julia G. Brody, Ph.D.

Distinguished Lecture in Occupational and Environmental Cancer
National Cancer Institute, Rockville MD, February 2002

Patterns in breast cancer incidence suggest that environmental factors are yet to be discovered. Endogenous and pharmaceutical estrogens are associated with risk, but potential endocrine disruptors and animal mammary carcinogens have for the most part not been studied. Serum measurements have been used to evaluate the relationship between persistent organochlorine chemicals and breast cancer. The Cape Cod Study takes a different approach. Exposures are evaluated in a case-control study through a geographic information system and through testing air, dust, and women's urine for 86 compounds. Exposures from pesticides, drinking water, and commercial products are assessed. New methods and preliminary exposure data will be discussed.