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Educational questions.

"Pre-natal exposure to dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene and infant lower respiratory tract infections and wheeze"

1. Which of the following statements is true?

- Dichlorodiphenyldichloroethylene (DDE) and other persistent organic pollutants have very long half lives in our body and therefore should be measured repeatedly at close time intervals to obtain a good representation of exposure.
- Measuring DDE levels in maternal blood provides good information on the exposure of the fetus during the whole pregnancy.
- Diet is not an important source of exposure to persistent organic pollutants (POPs).

2. Which of the following statements is true?

- One limitation of the present study is the prospective design whereby exposure was measured during pregnancy and infections and wheeze in children were assessed one year after birth.
- The age at which the children are assessed for lower respiratory tract infections and wheezing is an important factor to take into account when performing pooled analyses of data from different study populations.
- Selection bias in the present study led to spurious associations.
- Data imputation is a good tool to avoid bias due to missing data.

3. Which of the following statements is true?

- DDE can induce inflammatory process, cytokine deregulation and apoptosis.
- The pathways by which DDE interferes with the immune system have been clearly identified.
- Cell counts analyses are better than cytokine assays to provide information on the effects of DDE on the immune system.

4. Which of the following statements is true about the present study?

- Results are inconsistent since after adjustment for other POPs associations disappeared.
- Results show that maternal smoking during pregnancy is an effect modifier.
- Wheezing results are in discordance with those for LRTIs.
- Results for Latin-Americans are consistent with those for Spanish population.