

## **Data on Prior Pesticide Use Collected from Self and Proxy Respondents**

Rebecca A. Johnson, Jack S. Mandel, Robert W. Gibson, Jeffrey H. Mandel,  
Alan P. Bender; Paul D. Gunderson, and Colleen M. Renier

### **ABSTRACT**

Proxy respondents have often been used in case-control studies of cancer and pesticides. To evaluate the effect of exposure misclassification we compared data collected during 1981-1983 from participants interviewed for a case-control study of leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma with data collected during 1990-1991 from proxy responds for participants who died or became incompetent since the initial interview (328 Sell-proxy pairs). As questions increased in detail agreement percentages decreased. Agreement percentages were highest for demographic and general farming information (averages - 88-90%) and lowest for specific pesticide use (averages- 68-74%). Generally, odds ratios calculated from proxy respondent data were less than those from self-respondent data; however, several exceptions occurred. The findings indicate that pesticide data provided by proxy respondents will not necessarily result in the same estimate of risk and/or lead to the same conclusions as data provided by self-respondent;. (Epidemiology 1993; 4:157-164)