

Exposure to gas, dust, fumes ups risk of mite sensitization

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"These novel findings suggest that components of GDF may act as adjuvants that facilitate sensitization to mites, and that mite-sensitized individuals may be especially susceptible to inhalant occupational exposures," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—Occupational exposure to gas, dust, and fumes (GDF) increases the risk of mite sensitization, and is associated with asthma and wheeze in those who are mite-sensitized, according to a study published online Jan. 30 in *Allergy*.

Anders Bjerg, M.D., Ph.D., from the University of Gothenburg in Sweden, and colleagues examined the role of [sensitization](#) in the correlation between GDF and [allergic conditions](#). Data were collected from questionnaires and skin prick tests from a population-based sample of 788 adults from the West Sweden Asthma Study.

The researchers found that GDF exposure correlated with a doubled risk of sensitization to mites, but not other allergens, after adjustment for confounders. The effect of GDF on [asthma](#) was modified by mite sensitization. GDF correlated with physician-diagnosed asthma and wheeze in mite-sensitized subjects (adjusted odds ratios, 2.9 [95 percent confidence interval, 1.2 to 7.2] and 2.4 [95 percent confidence interval, 1.1 to 5.3], respectively). The corresponding odds ratios were 1.1 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.5 to 2.6) and 0.6 (95 percent confidence interval, 0.3 to 1.3) in non-mite-sensitized subjects. Irrespective of mite sensitization, GDF was independently associated with eczema but not rhinitis.

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