

MECHANISMS OF ACTION OF SOME AIR POLLUTANTS ON THE AIRWAYS

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SUMMARY

Common air pollutants (O_3 , SO_2) exert their deleterious effects in several ways, mostly on the respiratory functions. *Ozone* causes formation of peroxides and aldehydes with subsequent release of inflammatory lipids and cytokines. Changes in the activity of neutral endopeptidase and release of neuropeptides may occur. As a result, bronchial hyperreactivity can be detected. In the mechanisms of the disturbances due to *sulfur dioxide*, cholinergic mechanisms and release of neuropeptides may be involved.

Key words: ozone, sulfur dioxide, neuropeptides, arachidonates, bronchial hyperreactivity

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