

to advance this area with respect to injury prevention.

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[The author replies:]

John Lewko is partly correct in thinking I am convinced we should stop taking risks.¹ But I don't view the issue as a choice between this course of action and "becoming better risk managers." Reducing risk-taking seems the only logical option until there is evidence that someone has discovered the Holy Grail of successful risk management. And it remains the only option until it has been proven that risk management can be taught to others, especially adolescents. To be clear, I advocate the "precautionary principle."²

I have not read all that Lewko cites but I would be astounded if any of these sources offer the needed assurances. Certainly this issue is complex and the

debate he proposes is long overdue. I am surprised that others have not joined in the discussion and encourage them to do so.

It is not difficult to agree in principle with some of what Lewko argues. But what we now need is evidence. Consequently, I challenge him and his colleagues to apply their considerable resources and expertise to provide the answers and hope they will accept the obligation to share what they learn with others. In the meantime, responsible safety organizations have no option but to encourage the public to minimize risk-taking.

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References

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2. Pless B. Expanding the precautionary principle [editorial]. *Inj Prev* 2003;9:1-2.

Corrections

In a recent commentary,¹ Dr. Chockalingam's first name was incorrectly indicated as "Allan." His first name is "Arun."

Reference

1. Kendall H, Chockalingam A, Best A, Walsh G. Technology-enabled knowledge translation: building a framework for collaboration [editorial]. *CMAJ* 2003;168(6):710-1.

In a recent Practice section article on Occupational asthma,¹ on page 869, column 1, fourth paragraph, third sentence, the line should read "Employers in Canada are required to have an MSDS [material safety data sheet] available on site for any hazardous products, including material that contains at least 0.1% of a known respiratory sensitizer."

Reference

1. Tarlo SM, Liss GM. Occupational asthma: an approach to diagnosis and management. *CMAJ* 2003;168(7):867-71.

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