

# Association of chili pepper consumption, low socioeconomic status and longstanding gallstones with gallbladder cancer in a Chilean population

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We explored the risk factors for gallbladder cancer and explanations for its sharp and constant incidence increase in Chile since the 1970s. We compared 114 consecutive patients with verified gallbladder cancer, diagnosed 1992-1995, to 114 matched hospital patients with gallstones, using conditional logistic regression analysis. Low education showed a nonsignificant positive relationship with gallbladder cancer [odds ratio (OR) = 2.3, 95% confidence interval (CI) 0.8-6.2], and low socioeconomic level showed a significant relationship (OR = 5.0, 95% CI 1.5-17.3). A very long history of gallstone disease was significantly more prevalent among cases (OR = 11.0, 95% CI 1.4-85.2). Significant red chili pepper consumption was observed in gallbladder cancer patients (OR = 2.9, 95% CI 1.6-5.2). Low intake of both fresh fruit and sugar as soft drinks was associated with gallbladder cancer, with ORs of 6.4 (95% CI 1.4-30.3) and 3.6 (95% CI 1.3-10.1), respectively.

Multivariate analysis kept only