
Item ID Number 01782

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Report/Article Title Typescript: Summary of Review of VA Submission to JAMA, "Proportional Mortality Study of Army and Marine Corps Veterans of the Vietnam War" by P. Breslin, et al., September 8, 1987

Journal/Book Title

Year 0000

Month/Day

Color

Number of Images 1

Description Notes

Summary of Review of VA submission to JAMA
"Proportional Mortality Study of Army and Marine Corps Veterans
of the Vietnam War"
by P. Breslin, H.K. Kang, Y. Lee, V. Burt, and B.M. Shepard

Summary prepared by
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September 8, 1987

- . Regardless of any possible methodological flaws, this study can not be used to infer anything about Agent Orange or any other specific cause of effect other than being a Vietnam veteran.
- . From the write up, one can not check the statistical procedures and therefore must assume that it was done correctly using acceptable methods; however, a more detailed description of the methods with references would be helpful.
- . From this study the Marines have an increased risk due to Non-Hodgkins Lymphomas; however, the Army risk is lower than expected but not significantly. When combined, the overall risk is less than expected with a PMR \sim 0.95.
- . The manuscript is for the most part written clearly; however, there are still obvious errors and statements made that are not well documented. Positive findings are pointed out but corresponding negative findings are not discussed.
- . Statements are made on page 14 that PMR values may be inflated or deflated. Life-table analyses could be conducted to overcome these limitations.
- . It is not clear how age and race adjustments were made in the analyses. Were the average age of the Vietnam and non-Vietnam groups the same?