

Table 3: Radiographic and Pulmonary Function Test Findings in Selected Toxic Inhalations

AGENT	CHEST RADIOGRAPH OR CT SCAN	PULMONARY FUNCTION TESTS
Ammonia	Possible acute pneumonitis 1 to 3 days following exposure	Obstructive pattern; RADS
Cadmium	Pulmonary infiltrates and progression to ARDS in fatal exposure	Obstructive pattern; COPD
Chlorine	Pulmonary edema with severe exposure	Restriction or obstruction, with resolution usually over months; reversible obstruction due to RADS uncommon
Mercury	Pulmonary infiltrates and progression to ARDS after 12-24 hours	Occasionally, restriction due to pulmonary fibrosis
Metal fume fever	Occasionally, pulmonary infiltrates, but radiographs usually normal	Occasionally, obstructive or restrictive pattern
Nitrogen dioxide	Delayed onset of ARDS	Obstruction due to BO or restriction due to BOOP occurring several weeks post-exposure
Phosgene	ARDS after latent period of approximately 8 hours	Occasionally, obstruction
Sulfur dioxide	ARDS	Obstructive pattern due to RADS or BO
Zinc chloride	Pulmonary infiltrates and progression to ARDS	Occasionally, restrictive pattern (at least in the short term)

BO: bronchiolitis obliterans

BOOP: bronchiolitis obliterans organizing pneumonia

RADS: reactive airways dysfunction syndrome