Cadmium exposure, inter-cellular adhesion molecule-1 and peripheral artery disease. A cohort and an experimental study.

Supplement

Statistics
The logistic regression analyses indicated a non-linear association between cadmium exposure and occurrence of low ankle-brachial index. To further examine this an analysis was also performed on the associations between cadmium levels as continuous variables and the occurrence of low ankle-brachial index using smoothed splines (Proc GAM in SAS, 4 df, knots at the unique values of B-Cd).

Results
The lower limit of the third tertiles for B-Cd and U-Cd is about 0.5 µg/L and µg/g creatinine, respectively. As shown in Supplemental Figure 1, there seems to be no increase in risk below that level. The analyses based upon B-Cd and U-Cd treated as continuous variables using splines indicates that the risk of low ankle-brachial index starts to increase somewhere between 0.25 – 0.5 µg/L or µg/gC (Supplemental Figure 2) but levels of above 1 µg/L or µg/gC. The numbers of cases with low ankle-brachial index at B-Hg >1 µg/L or U-Cd >1 µg/gC are small, however, making the evaluation of dose-response in the upper parts of the Cd distributions very uncertain.

Supplemental Figure 1. Histogram of occurrence of low ankle-brachial index at follow-up by blood cadmium (upper panel) and creatinine-adjusted cadmium concentrations (lower panel) at baseline.
Supplemental Figure 2. Associations between cadmium levels as continuous variables and the occurrence of low ankle-brachial index using smoothed splines.