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# $PM_{10}$ from Mexico City (MC) induce senescence-like phenotype and ATM, $\gamma$ H2A.X and p53 activation linked to oxidative stress

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## **Background**

Urban air particulate matter (PM) relates to adverse health effects including lung cancer. Previous work from our group demonstrated that the  $PM_{10}$  produce DNA damage, although the mechanisms involved are not known. DNA double-strand breaks (DSBs) are the most deleterious DNA lesions. DSBs arise from exogenous agents such as metals and hydrocarbons, or endogenous agents, such as reactive oxygen species (ROS). We explore the cellular response that senses DNA damage after cell exposure to  $PM_{10}$ , evaluating markers such as phosphorylation of ATM (ser1981),  $\gamma$ H2A.X (ser139) and p53 (ser15), and senescence-like induction, as well as the identification of ROS co-participation in the response.

#### Materials and methods

A549 cells were exposed 24 h to 10 µg/cm² of PM<sub>10</sub> from an urban-commercial zone from MC. ROS induction was evaluated by DCFH-DA assay. Senescence was determined by the  $\beta$ -galactosidase assay. ATM,  $\gamma$ H2A.X and p53 activation and their co-localization on DNA damage foci were done by immunofluorescence. Experiments in the presence of Trolox as an OH · scavenger were done in parallel.

## Results

Senescence-like was induced by  $PM_{10}$ . ATM, H2A.X and p53 were activated by  $PM_{10}$  and co-localize in DNA damage foci. Both cellular responses were prevented by Trolox.

#### **Conclusion**

Cells exposed to  $PM_{10}$  had a cellular response directly involved in sensing DSBs. There was a strong co-relation with the presence of ROS that suggests the participation of oxidative stress in the deleterious effects induced by  $PM_{10}$ . Senescence-like phenotype and ATM,  $\gamma$ H2A.X and p53 activation conform an early cellular response that could evolve into the signaling and recruitment of repair factors, and the activation of enzymes of cell cycle checkpoints in cells exposed to  $PM_{10}$ . Further studies must be done to confirm that.

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