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Historical review of the causes of cancer

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**Abstract**

In the early 1900s, numerous seminal publications reported that high rates of cancer occurred in certain occupations. During this period, work with infectious agents produced only meager results which seemed irrelevant to humans. In the 1980s ground breaking evidence began to emerge that a variety of viruses also cause cancer in humans. <sup>44</sup> there is now sufficient evidence of carcinogenicity in humans <sup>4</sup> for human T-cell lymphotropic virus (HTLV-1), human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), <sup>6</sup> hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), human papillomavirus (HPV), Epstein-Barr virus (EBV), and human herpes virus 8 (HHV-8) <sup>7</sup> according to the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC). Many other causes of cancer have also been identified by the IARC, which include: sunlight, tobacco, pharmaceuticals, hormones, alcohol, <sup>21</sup>

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