Results of epidemiological studies of associations between risk of pancreatic cancer and job titles are heterogeneous and inconsistent, and exposures shared by high-risk jobs are hard to identify. Most of the occupational chemical agents that were associated with excess risk of pancreatic cancer in epidemiological studies emerged in one study only.

This study investigated the relationship between occupational determinants and pancreatic cancer, first in the case-control study based on Finnish data, and secondly in meta-analyses of occupational agents and occupations by using random effects and hierarchical Bayesian models for meta-analysis. In the hierarchical Bayesian models, the study also evaluated the feasibility of the use of a job-exposure matrix in meta-analysis.