COBALT

Rosenstock:

- Clinical effects:
  - Giant cell pneumonitis (specific immunological mechanisms)
  - Interstitial fibrosis
  - Asthma (specific immunological mechanisms)
  - Impaired ventilatory function
  - Cardiomyopathy
  - Dermatitis (cell-mediated immunity)
  - Stimulate Erythropoiesis in the treatment of anemia
  - Lung cancer

- Dx:
  - Cobalt lung/hard metal disease → characteristic multinucleated giant cells in BAL or lung biopsy.
  - Cobalt Dermatitis → patch testing, cobalt-specific lymphocyte transformation tests using blood samples.

- Rx → cobalt-related asthma, giant cell pneumonitis, or less specific interstitial fibrosis, removal from cobalt exposure is mandatory.

- Biologic monitoring → For soluble cobalt compounds, measurement of urine or blood cobalt at the end of the work week may be useful in assessing recent exposure.