



CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

## EPIDEMIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF OCCUPATIONAL DERMATITIS NOTIFIED IN CENTRAL TUNISIA DURING 11 YEARS

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**Introduction:** Occupational dermatitis affect the worker, workplace and society. In Tunisia, studies on the subject are scarce and punctual. It is estimated that the disease is underreported and that many have affected patients who do not seek for health care.

**Objectives:** To analyze epidemiological and socio professional characteristics of occupational dermatitis notified in the occupational medicine department in a university hospital of central Tunisia during 11 years.

**Materials and Methods:** We conducted a retrospective exhaustive study during 11 years of patients having consulted for occupational dermatitis in the occupational medicine department in the university hospital in central Tunisia. A pre established form related to socio-professional and clinical characteristics was used to collect data.

**Results:** During the study period 27 patients have consulted in central Tunisia. Patients were predominantly male (SR=3.5) and mean aged  $33.7 \pm 8.9$  years. The predominant sectors were textile industry, food industry (18.5%) and hotels (14,8%) with a mean job tenure of  $9.2 \pm 7.1$  years. The most described etiological agent was colorant dyes (11.1%). The location of the body most affected was the hands, with 85.2% of cases. Allergic contact dermatitis is the most prevalent occupational dermatitis (70.4%). An occupational origin was retained among 25.9% of patients justifying a declaration of occupational disease.

**Conclusions:** Occupational dermatitis are complex diseases. The profile of patients most affected by occupational dermatitis in central Tunisia during the study period was: men, aged between 19 and 51 years old and working in the textile industry. The most common occupational dermatitis were allergic contact dermatitis caused by colorant dyes after years of exposure and located in the hands. The understanding of the complex gene-environment interactions is the first step of prevention through primary, secondary and tertiary multidisciplinary programs.





Keywords: occupational dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis, Central Tunisia.

