



CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

## HAND CONTACT DERMATITIS IN HAIRDRESSING APPRENTICES

*A Cristaudo<sup>(1)</sup> - M Mariano<sup>(1)</sup> - Mg De Rocco<sup>(1)</sup> - D Orsini<sup>(1)</sup> - A Morrone<sup>(2)</sup>*

*San Gallicano Dermatological Institute Irccs, Allergological Dermatology, Rome, Italy<sup>(1)</sup> -  
San Gallicano Dermatological Institute Irccs, Clinical Dermatology, Rome, Italy<sup>(2)</sup>*

**Background:** Occupational contact dermatitis among hairdressers is frequent, owing to daily exposure to irritants and allergens.

**Objective:** To investigate the causes of hand dermatitis, clinical patterns, morphology, common allergens and onset and clinical features of skin lesions among hairdressing apprentices.

**Methods:** 46 hairdressing apprentices (31 women and 15 men, mean age 25.6) with hand contact dermatitis were included and investigated by patch testing with the European baseline series and were additionally tested with hairdressing series.

**Results:** Two major clinical pictures were observed: the metacarpophalangeal joints pattern (21 patients, mean age 17.2) and the eczema of fingers (25 patients, mean age 31.1). In the metacarpophalangeal joints pattern the hand dermatitis began within 5-6 months of starting work and the patch testing results were negative. In subjects with eczema P-phenylenediamine was the allergen from the European baseline series with significant association with the occupation of hairdressing.

**Conclusion:** Despite educational efforts to prevent occupational skin diseases in the hairdressing apprentices, they are still at increased risk of hand eczema. Further preventive strategies are required.

