CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

LARGEST CLINICO EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY OF OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES IN INDUSTRIAL WORKERS IN NORTHERN INDIA : AN EYE OPENING RESEARCH

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Background: Occupational skin diseases (OSDs) are a major public health problem in India, because they are common, are often chronic, and have significant economic impact on society and on workers.

Objective:
To study prevalence of occupational dermatoses among workers in 8 selected industries.
To study clinical patterns of occupational dermatoses.
To confirm the diagnosis of contact dermatitis using patch testing wherever relevant.

Material and Methods:
Design: Cross sectional observational study.
Duration: October 2014 to March 2017

Industries of interest:
Automobile
Construction
Food processing
Cosmetic & Fragrance
Chemical
Textile
Leather
Health care

Patch testing was done using following Series: Indian standard, Footwear, Cosmetic, Fragrance, and Textile.

Results: Out of 1739 workers screened 659 (37.89 %) workers had Occupational dermatoses, 309 (17.76 %) had Non-occupational dermatoses
Highest prevalence (60.6 %) was seen in health care workers followed by food handlers.

Least prevalence (26.6 %) was seen in textile industry workers.
Out of total 1011 cases of occupational dermatoses (OD) nail changes (26.31 %) were the most common disorder followed by Allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) (22.94 %), frictional callosity (17.01 %), Irritant contact dermatitis (ICD) (14.34 %), infection, follicular disease, contact urticaria, stasis dermatitis.
Highest prevalence (29.10 %) of ACD was seen in food handlers and least (6.52 %) was seen in automobile industries.
25.81 % workers were presently using protective clothing either in the form of gloves, boots or both.
Nickel sulphate was the most common allergen causing ACD in automobile (52.9 %), chemical (33.33 %) and food handling industry (66.66 %).

Conclusion: National voluntary skin health surveillance system of workers at risk be established in India to provide insights into the occurrence, distribution, and secular trends of occupational dermatoses in different occupational groups