Poster Presentation

The Occupational Health Effects of Hazardous Agents Leading to Skin Diseases

Liz Zellers, Megan Scott, and Colleen Maloney

Faculty Mentors: Mei Wen and Fetene Gebrewold
Health Services Management

Due to the dangerous effects of working with and around hazardous agents such as chemical, physical, mechanical or biological, there are many different skin diseases that can occur if workers are not protected. Data was collected using the internet, journal resources, Center for Disease Control and Prevention website and article sources from the University of Arizona College Of Medicine. The research data indicated that contact with hazardous chemicals or other agents in the work place can cause various health problems such as irritant contact dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis, skin cancer, skin infections, skin injuries and other skin diseases. Research indicates that contact dermatitis is the most common occupational skin disease. Areas that are at greatest risk for occupational skin diseases include manufacturing, food production, construction, machine operation, printing, leatherwork, engine service and forestry. Screenings are required if skin disease becomes apparent. Once screenings are complete, an in-depth occupational history questionnaire will take place; going over general work conditions, physical, chemical and biologic agents that may be exposed in the work place, possible skin diseases in fellow workers, and discuss control measures to minimize or prevent the exposure in the workplace. The purpose of this study is to inform the public about the dangers of hazardous agents in the work place that can cause occupational skin disease, and to provide information on how to prevent injuries from taking place. (Word count=246)