



A-Z SEED - D



DERMATITIS

Occupational dermatitis is a local inflammation of the skin. Symptoms of inflammation are itching, pain, redness, swelling, and the formation of small blisters or wheals (itchy, red circles with a white centre) on the skin. The inflammation is caused by an allergy or irritation as a result of substances found in the workplace that come into direct contact with the skin.



Occupational dermatitis is usually due to one of the following conditions:

1. Physical agents (friction, pressure, vibrations, moisture, cold, electricity, UV rays, and radiations from X-rays.)
2. Biological agents: (Bacterial, parasites, fungi and insects)
3. Chemical agents (Solvents etc.)
4. Chemical agents causing occupational dermatomes may be divided into two groups – The primary irritants and the sensitizers.

Skin Cancer:

Exposure to radiation can lead to skin cancer, most commonly this comes from exposure to the sun. Therefore outside workers are particularly at risk. People who are exposed ionising and non-ionising radiation may be susceptible to work related cancers.

Some chemicals can cause cancer on the skin; others may contribute to cancers found in other parts of the body. The use of unrefined mineral oils has in the past led to skin cancer affecting the exposed skin of the hands and forearms. Oil-soaked clothing and oily rags kept in overalls caused scrotal cancer.

Primary irritants:

The keratin on skin may be damaged by the action of alkaline and soaps. Concentrated acids and alkalies cause chemical burns.

Diagnosis:

The disease appears during a period of industrial exposure or within a reasonable period after of exposure.

Prevention:

Proper training and strict adherence to personal hygiene. Use of personnel protective equipments wherever necessary.

SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

SEED

www.seedforsafety.org

