

Occupational dermatitis

Dermatitis is literally “inflamed skin”, a condition that can ruin the life of those who are affected. Dermatitis affects between about 1 and 5% of the general population at any point in time and for some of these people their symptoms are related to their work. Irritant or allergic occupational dermatitis can be caused by workplace chemicals that repeatedly come into contact with our skin. Another major cause of dermatitis at work is repeated contact with water or water-based mixtures, which affects engineering workers, operators in food processing, cleaning staff and many others.



The IOM Solution

We can help you avoid or investigate dermatitis in your work place. Our occupational hygienists undertake site investigations to help identify causes of dermatitis or quantify the risks. IOM's laboratory and information services can help you identify substances that may be responsible for cases of dermatitis. Our occupational health team can help you set up routine surveillance systems using questionnaires and simple inspections. IOM has skills in recording and managing sickness absence that may also be of help in cases of dermatitis.

Occasionally occupational dermatitis may result in medico-legal claims. We have experienced consultants who are able to investigate such cases for civil litigation proceedings and defend their conclusions in court.

RESEARCH CONSULTING SERVICES

Multi-disciplinary specialists in Occupational and Environmental Health and Hygiene

The IOM and dermatitis

IOM has a long history helping our clients maintain healthy workplaces. We have particular expertise in dermatitis, whether undertaking detailed investigations of specific cases or advising you on how to minimise the risks of occupational dermatitis in your workplace.

Several of our scientific and technical staff are involved in research designed to help understand why people get dermatitis and how employers can help reduce the risks. We have, with the University of Aberdeen, investigated the causes of dermatitis in engineering companies using metal-working fluids. Our scientists have recently invented a new device to monitor the dermatitis risk from wet-work and we have previously invented a novel sampler to measure chemical skin exposure. IOM is one of the key centres world-wide for dermal exposure research.

We have also developed a computer software tool for the Health and Safety Executive to help record and analyse sickness absence in organisations. We can advise on how best to implement this approach in your organisation.

Our commitment to you

We are committed to helping you find the solution to your dermatitis problem. We provide:

- authoritative independent advice to help you solve your dermatitis problem
- a report in a timely way in line with the agreed schedule
- full commercial confidentiality
- if appropriate, help in communicating our findings to your stakeholders

Our dermatitis management services include:

- Full assessment of dermal and other occupational exposures
- COSHH Assessments
- Investigation of working practices to minimise dermatitis
- Advice on controlling dermal exposures or minimising wet work
- Awareness training on dermatitis for workers and managers
- Laboratory analysis to identify chemicals that may cause dermatitis
- Clinical examination of individual workers
- Training nominated individuals to become competent persons for skin inspections
- Set up routine surveillance schemes to help you manage dermatitis
- Provide clear and simple advice on managing dermatitis in relation to chemicals, processes and wet work
- Product safety reviews
- Expert witness services
- Sickness absence analysis and management
- Comprehensive research of dermatitis and its causes

Did you know?

You are only a phone call or a mouse click away from accessing the full range of **IOM Solutions**. These are founded on an unrivalled body of knowledge, resulting from more than three decades of research, consulting and service provision. We can bring the full weight of the IOM's knowledge and experience to bear on a wide range of occupational and environmental hazards that may pose a risk to health. These include:

- Asbestos and other fibres
- Dusts
- Chemicals
- Air pollution
- Noise and vibration
- Pesticides
- Nanomaterials, including nanoparticles and nanotubes

Our work extends to the assessment of the health consequences of exposure encompassing

- Allergy and asthma
- Silicosis and other pneumoconioses
- Other lung diseases
- Cancer
- Asbestos-related diseases
- Dermatitis
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Noise-induced hearing loss
- Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome
- Workplace stress

Our purpose is to safeguard and improve standards of occupational and public health. Our teams of scientists, clinicians and consultants include a number with international reputations in their fields of expertise. We give you access to real experts, who listen, understand, and focus on providing the solutions you seek.

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