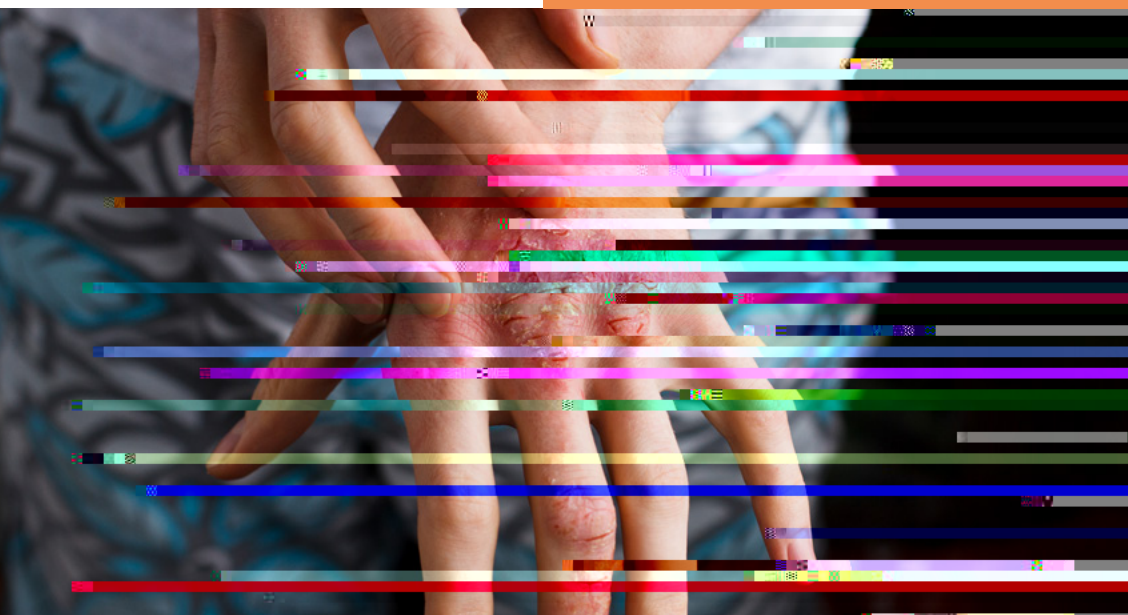


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ALLIANZ RISK CONSULTING



Background

Skin is the body's largest organ, and is exposed the most to outside elements. Such elements include chemicals, sunlight, and abrasions - all of which can cause skin irritation and inflammation. Skin problems can range from minor rashes and urticaria to eczema, skin ulcers and cancer. In general, any inflammation of the skin (derma) is known as dermatitis.

Dermatitis is one of the most common occupational diseases today. According to the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), contact dermatitis accounts for 90-95% of all reported occupational skin problems. While

Allergic dermatitis is the result of continuous exposure to an offending agent. In this case, initial contact does not necessarily result in immediate irritation, but can appear after repeated exposure. Once the skin is sensitized to the irritant, continued exposure results in a reaction. In fact, dermatitis may not show up in the exposed part of the body. Even some ingested chemicals and drugs, (such as bromine and Cipro), and food poisoning can lead to skin reactions. Examples of chemicals that can cause allergic dermatitis include organic dyes, plastic resins, rubber accelerators, pesticides, metallic salts and many natural plants, insect bites, cosmetics, and medicines.

Excessive rubbing and scratching, exposure to heat or cold, radiation, and plants or insects can also bring about dermatitis.

While most dermatitis develops on the hands and arms, breakout can occur on any part of the body. Mists and vapors can settle on the face or neck chemical splashes on clothing can result in dermatitis on the torso and walking or standing in a damp or wet environment can cause skin problems on the feet.

Common examples of dermatitis are pictured below:

Machine shop workers exposed to cutting fluids and solvents can develop skin inflammation indirect contact through misting or sprays can result in irritation to the body through clothing.

Fig 1: Dermatitis causenatiti.8 (t)-20.2 (s c)5.9rs exps aough 294rrritWa5 (i)7.s l(n)-3.5uTd [(c)5.9(p)-1.8 (r16g)-4.d (t)10 ()]TJ70

If you must wear gloves to prevent or minimize contact with chemicals, irritants or hazardous substances, keep in mind the following:

Select the correct type of glove. Some chemicals eat right through gloves. Consult the manufacturer,