

Skin Health Surveillance: Making it effective and beneficial

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Skin Health Surveillance: Making it effective and beneficial

- Why do skin health surveillance
- Key available methods
 - Questionnaires
 - Visual assessment
 - Skin condition measurement
- How can it be used
- Building effective systems



Why Bother?

- For a complete skin management system
- Our 'Early warning'
- Regulatory requirements
- Economic implications
- Social effects



Key Methods

- Questionnaires
- Visual Assessment
- Skin Condition Measurement



Why a questionnaire is important

- To gain background information
- To provide information in a structured manner for analysis
- To ensure that all aspects are covered
- To ensure compliance with the regulations
- To raise awareness
- To help decide if a problem is occupational or not
- Gives time for acclimatisation and relaxation of the test subject



When to use a questionnaire

- Every time a skin health assessment is made
- When carrying out pre-placement assessment
- For skin health surveillance and monitoring

More than one questionnaire may be needed



Information in a questionnaire

- Name
- Occupation
- Age
- Male/female
- Right or left handed
- Description of work done
- Use of personal protective equipment
- Frequency of PPE use
- Frequency of chemical contact
- Skin Problems – current or previous
- Allergies?
- Medically Confirmed?



Information in a questionnaire

- Use of moisturiser
- Frequency of moisturiser use
- Skin care and cosmetic products used
- Housework??
- Dishwasher??
- Gloves for housework??
- Gloves at any other time??
- Hobbies
- Other non work activities
- Second job?



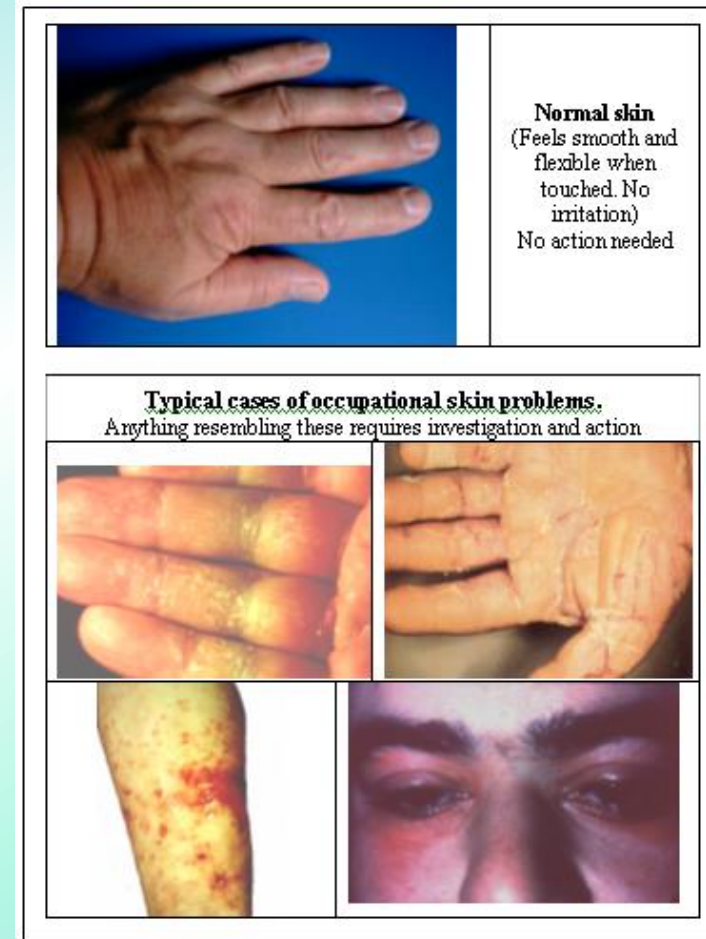
Suggested uses of the information

- To advise an individual
- To distinguish between occupational and non-occupational skin problems
- In management reports (e.g. to support the need for action)
- Identifying system weaknesses so that they can be addressed
- To provide supporting data for medical referral



Visual Assessment

- Visual and tactile examination of the skin
- Scoring system
 - Osnabrück scoring system
 - Simple scoring systems
- Comparison chart



Visual Assessment



Quick

Inexpensive

Can be done 'on-site'

Valid for all visible skin conditions



Subjective, no quantitative data

Requires experience/training

May not indicate sub-clinical damage

Surface conditions do not always correlate with conditions in the skin



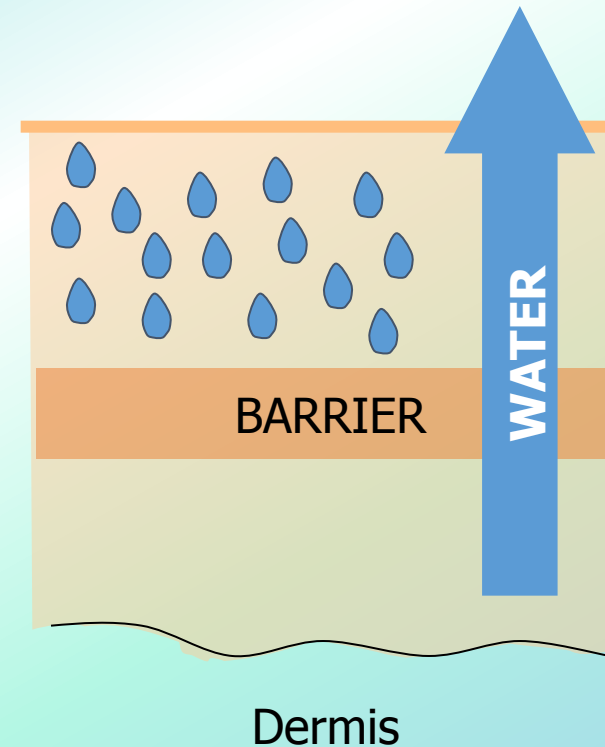
Skin Condition Assessment

- Uses scientific equipment to measure skin parameters
- Different parameters build a picture of the condition of the skin
 - Transepidermal water loss
 - Skin hydration
 - Skin colour/pigmentation
 - pH



Important parameters

- Transepidermal Water Loss (TEWL)
 - Barrier function
- Skin Hydration
- Skin Colour (erythema)
 - Quantify rash
- Skin pH
 - Microorganism barrier



Skin Condition Assessment



Non-invasive

Simple measurement methods

Quantitative data

May indicate sub-clinical damage

Can build a picture of skin condition



Only valid for certain skin conditions

Measurements can't be made everywhere



How can it be used?

- Pre-placement assessment
- Identifying problem areas
- Health surveillance/monitoring
- Assessing intervention
- Investigating a problem



Setting up a skin health surveillance system

- Decide which techniques are relevant for your organisation
- Decide how you will use the techniques
- Set out what you will do and when



Increasing Resources: The importance of responsible people

- Only brief training required
- More frequent skin checks
- Non health and safety qualified personnel
 - Line manager
 - First aider
- Report those with problems
- Advise to seek assistance



Skin Health Surveillance System

- Involve colleagues to improve resources
- Set up a system including
 - Questionnaire
 - Visual assessment
 - Skin condition measurement
- Ensure regular monitoring of all employees
 - The frequency will depend on your organisation, the work carried out, and the number of employees
 - The more frequent the better particularly where exposure is to irritant chemicals or work situations



Thank you for your attention!

Questions?



If you think of any questions later,
please feel free to contact us

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