



Prevention of acrylate induced skin and respiratory diseases in beauty care and assembly

The Finnish Institute of Occupational Health has started a research project to investigate workers' exposure to sensitizing acrylate compounds in beauty salons and industrial assembly tasks. The aim is to develop health promoting working habits and thereby to prevent occupational diseases.

Allergy from acrylates?

Acrylate compounds belong to the most important compounds causing occupational allergic contact dermatitis. They may also cause occupational asthma or rhinitis. Acrylate allergies have increased especially in the beauty sector in recent years, due to the increased use of artificial nails and lash glues.

In industrial work these allergies have been caused by mounting glues: in the Finnish register of occupational diseases anaerobic glues have ranked as the commonest cause of acrylate allergy. Currently, skin and respiratory exposure is not known well enough to give evidence-based recommendations for safe working habits and personal protection.

“The aim is to develop health promoting working habits and thereby to prevent occupational diseases.”

The aims of the project

The aim is to gain new information on the exposure and the diagnosed diseases so far. With this information we will produce practical and understandable guidelines for safe work and efficient skin and respiratory protection. We will publish the new guidelines mostly in the Internet as webinars and guides to be downloaded free of charge.

FACTS

Time schedule: The study will be conducted in 2019-2022

Workplace measurements and observations will be done in five beauty salons and five assembly industries.

The research project is financially supported by: the Finnish Institute of Occupational Health (FIOH) and the Finnish Work Environment Fund.

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The project consists of

- Workplace measurements and observations in five beauty salons and five assembly industries.
- The spreading of acrylates to workplace surfaces and equipment will be monitored by wipe-sampling.
- The use of respiratory protection and local ventilation techniques will be tested in beauty salons.
- Working methods will be reviewed and improved together with the companies and their workers.
- Protective gloves' efficacy against acrylates will be tested in FIOH laboratory.
- FIOH's data on patients diagnosed with acrylate-induced occupational disease in 2006-2019 will be analysed. From these data we will gain information for example on specific acrylate allergens and the exposure characteristics leading to disease.



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