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REVIEW PAPER

Occupational hazards related to chemical factors in the work environment of a cosmetologist*

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Abstract

Cosmetology clinic employees are exposed to a multitude of chemical substances, which constitutes a significant health risk for them, even though the profession of a cosmetologist is often regarded as low risk. Research shows that long-term exposure to chemicals may lead to occupational diseases such as contact dermatitis, occupational asthma, and chronic respiratory diseases. The primary aim of the study was to identify and analyze the substances most commonly found in a cosmetologist's work environment which may constitute a real toxicological threat. A comprehensive review of available scientific information was conducted by searching electronic databases, focusing on research in the areas of occupational medicine, toxicology, occupational dermatology, epidemiology, and legal regulations concerning occupational health and safety in cosmetology clinics. Nearly 10,000 different substances with potential toxic effects are currently used in the cosmetic sector. The lack of full validation of the health safety of people exposed to chronic occupational contact constitutes a significant issue. The paper discusses chemical agents most commonly encountered in a cosmetologist's work environment and presents possible health effects of exposure to them. It emphasizes the importance of comprehensive prevention and regular prophylactic examinations of employees. Furthermore, it points out that compliance with hygiene standards does not guarantee complete safety for employees, as mixtures of substances can cause toxic synergistic effects. This would suggest a need for further research into chemical interactions to assess risk levels more effectively and to develop methods to reduce them.

Keywords: occupational hazards, toxic substances, cosmetology