Progress in Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases – Global Medical, Regulatory and Societal Aspects –

- Occupational dermatoses: disease burden and options of prevention from an insurer’s point of view -

Prof. Dr. Stephan Brandenburg
Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention, Director General
BGW – Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention

- one of the largest institutions for statutory accident insurance in Germany
- more than 6 million insured people
- in more than 550,000 companies
- e.g. non-governmental hospitals, physicians, veterinary and dental practices, homes for the elderly, pharmacies, outpatient nursing services, midwives, hairdressing salons
BGW – Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention

Statutory Duties:

- Prevention of
  - workplace accidents
  - occupational diseases
  - work-related health hazards in more than 550,000 companies

- Rehabilitation
  - optimal medical treatment
  - benefits to promote occupational and social integration
  - reasonable compensation
BGW – Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention

Insured Persons:

- **Compulsory Insurance** – (Examples)
  - Employees (of the professions mentioned above)
  - Employers / Self-employed persons of companies which are part of the public health sector

- **Voluntary Insurance** – (Examples)
  - Self-employed doctors, dentists, veterinarians, pharmacists
Occupational Diseases
Cases reported in 2010

Occupational Skin Diseases constitute the most frequent occupational disease to affect persons insured with the BGW:
Prevention – Measures specifically matched with the different Professions insured with the BGW

- Elements e. g.:
  Informations concerning measures of prevention of occupational Skin diseases for employers and employees – printed and online

- Secondary individual prevention program
  Advisory service and training specifically designed for the different professions (e. g. hairdressers, nursing service)

- Individual counselling and doctor's advice for insured persons affected by occupational skin diseases
Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases

- Special Procedure for the Report of Occupational Skin Diseases: → allows an intervention at an early stage

1. Dermatologists notify BGW (or the appropriate Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention) about patients affected by occupational skin diseases

2. Doctors other than dermatologists have to refer patients to dermatologists

3. Patient is treated by dermatologist

4. Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention supervises treatment – dermatologists sends reports about the course of treatment
Occupational skin diseases

Ordinance on occupational diseases No. 5101 – reported cases of occupational skin diseases accepted cases / skin diseases accepted as occupational

![Graph showing reported and accepted cases of occupational skin diseases from 2004 to 2010.](image)

Quelle: BGW-Statistik N 039 A eng /11
Elements of Prevention
Specifically designed for different professions

- Special programmes designed for
  - Hairdressers
  - employees / self-employed persons working in the health care sector
Secondary individual prevention program
Hairdressers

- Set up of 10 training and advisory centers across Germany
  ➔ quick and nonbureaucratic help
- Dermatological examination and advice
  ➔ as early as possible
- Seminars on skin protection
  ➔ health educational training for two days
- Result
  ➔ 70% of participants stay in their job
Prevention
Example: Hairdressers

- Cooperation with the association of German hairdressers and the association of manufacturers of personal care products and detergents
- Education and cooperation with manufacturers of latex gloves (powder free)
- Issue of mandatory "technical rules for hazardous substances"
- Information of hairdressers
- Development of media for the training
- Exhibiting at trade shows
Secondary individual prevention – Information about Measures of Prevention for all Professions

- **Skin protection:**
  - Use of skin protection creams without fragrance, preservatives and dyes
  - Use of suitable gloves

- **Skin cleansing:**
  - Waiver of soap, use of pH-neutral synthetic detergents
  - Drying hands with soft and absorbent towels for single use

- **Skin Care:**
  - Cream without fragrance, preservatives and dyes
Tertiary prevention – Inpatient treatment

- Effective help for patients affected by severe and recurring cases of occupational skin diseases

- **Elements:**
  - inpatient treatment (for three weeks) followed by
  - a three-weeks leave of work and treatment by dermatologist
  - further examinations in regular intervals
  - information and counselling for the patient
Keeping in the job

- Disability managers give advice at the workplace
- Explanation of the necessary preventive measures
- Takeover of costs during a trial period
- Support of return to work
- Take account of particular problems:
  - Family situation
  - Care of relatives
Effective measures of prevention – Results

- Number of cases of occupational skin disease is reduced, severe courses of occupational skin diseases are prevented
- Employees can remain in their profession – their work experience is preserved for the company
- Lower costs to be paid for insurance contribution by companies
Compensation payments 2002 – 2010
for skin diseases / latex only – in millions of Euro

Quelle: BGW-Statistik 154 C /11 enGL.
Compensation payments for occupational skin diseases in millions of Euros

![Chart showing compensation payments from 2003 to 2010 for total and hairdressers only.]

Quelle: BGW-Statistik 030 A eng /11
Measures of Prevention –
costs for vocational Rehabilitation for Hairdressers in Mill. of Euros

Berufshilfekosten (in Mio. €)

- Measures of Prevention –
costs for vocational Rehabilitation for Hairdressers in Mill. of Euros

- Berufshilfekosten (in Mio. €)


- 0 5 10 15 20 25 30


- Berufshilfekosten (in Mio. €)
Measures of Prevention –
Insurance Contributions to be paid by Hairdressers per 1,000 Euros paid to Employee - Trend

0 5 10 15 20 25 30 35
1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009

Beitrag/€ je 1,000 € Entgelt/VS
The success

decline in latex allergy
Achieving better Protection of the skin - an ongoing Commitment of the BGW

- Developing better methods and products for skin protection

- Perspective / Research: Design of gloves with semipermeable membranes to avoid occlusion and humidity
30th International Congress on Occupational Health
Cancun, Mexico, March 18 – 23, 2012

Progress in Prevention of Occupational Skin Diseases
– Global Medical, Regulatory and Societal Aspects –

- Occupational dermatoses: disease burden and options of prevention from an insurer’s point of view -

Prof. Dr. Stephan Brandenburg
Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention, Director General
30th International Congress on Occupational Health
Cancun, Mexico, March 18 – 23, 2012

Allergic Contact Dermatitis
- Facts and Figures -

Prof. Dr. Stephan Brandenburg
Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention,
Director General
Occupational diseases reported in 2010

- Skin diseases: 56%
- Diseases of the respiratory tract: 9%
- Infectious diseases: 20%
- Diseases of the vertebral column: 5%
- Miscellaneous diseases: 10%
Allergic Contact Dermatitis
Hairdressers

- Cases – decided in 2010 by the BGW Hairdressers:
  - Cases concerning all types of occupational skin diseases: 1,464
  - Cases concerning Allergic Contact Dermatitis: 549
Allergic Contact Dermatitis
Hairdressers

- skin diseases other than allergic contact dermatitis: 38%
- allergic contact dermatitis: 62%
Allergic Contact Dermatitis
Hairdressers

Main Allergens / Causes - Hairdressers:
- dyes,
- hairspray,
- chemicals for applying perms,
- humidity
Allergic Contact Dermatitis
Health Care Sector

- Cases – decided in 2010 by the BGW Employees / Self-employed in the health care sector:
  - Cases concerning all types of occupational skin diseases: 1,743
  - Cases concerning Allergic Contact Dermatitis: 485
Allergic Contact Dermatitis
Health Care Sector

- skin diseases other than allergic contact dermatitis
- allergic contact dermatitis

72%  28%
Allergic Contact Dermatitis
Health Care Sector

Main Allergens / Causes – Health Care Sector:
- disinfectants,
- cleansing agents,
- humidity (e.g. due to having to wear gloves)
30th International Congress on Occupational Health
Cancun, Mexico, March 18 – 23, 2012

Allergic Contact Dermatitis
- Facts and Figures -

Prof. Dr. Stephan Brandenburg
Institution for Statutory Accident Insurance and Prevention,
Director General