

SUMMARY OF:

QUALITY OF LIFE IN PATIENTS WITH LATEX ALLERGY

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BACKGROUND

This study was conducted to look at allergy clinic patients that have been diagnosed with a natural rubber latex allergy. Once the patients were diagnosed, the impact on their Quality of Life (QOL) was reviewed.

OVERVIEW

A questionnaire was mailed to 56 participants who had diagnosis of contact dermatitis, contact urticaria, angioedema, rhino-conjunctivitis, and anaphylaxis. The participants were asked to rate on a scale of 0-6 the effect of their latex allergy on various activities important to their QOL and also the severity and frequency of their symptoms related to their QOL.

RESULTS

Out of the 56 questionnaires mailed, 31 were completed and mailed. 30 of the 31 respondents were health care workers. 43% of patients that responded with anaphylaxis reported a "3" or higher on a "feeling of distress or anxiety" because of their reaction. 13 respondents out of 31 changed their job due to their latex reactions. 17 patients (55%) reported that their co-workers made changes to their use of powdered-latex gloves due to their latex sensitized co-workers.

CONCLUSION

Through the course of time after the diagnosis of a latex allergy, there is less impact to a patient's QOL.. The positive results of this study demonstrate that even with various manifestations of latex allergy/sensitivity there is no substantial significance to QOL. Most patients were able to make changes within their occupations and/or their workplace was able to make changes in avoidance of natural rubber latex to accommodate their needs.

References 1. Al-Otaibi et al., Quality of life in patients with latex allergy. *Society of Occupational Medicine*. 2005; 55:88-92

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