

SUMMARY OF:

NATURAL RUBBER LATEX ALLERGY: THE IMPACT ON LIFESTYLE AND QUALITY OF LIFE

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BACKGROUND

50 Natural Rubber Latex (NRL)- allergic patients were followed-up with a postal survey to see if they had experienced any lifestyle or quality of life changes since they had been tested and diagnosed as positive for NRL between 1994-2003.

OVERVIEW

The postal survey was sent out to 50 patients that had been tested and diagnosed with NRL allergies. The questions that the patients were asked included: if they had experienced any changes with symptoms, occupation, other food allergies, and lifestyle since diagnoses.

RESULTS

(72%) 36 of 50 patients that responded to the survey were in constant contact with latex. 42% were nurses and 61% were healthcare workers. All participants in regular contact with latex 85% saw improvement in their allergy symptoms by switching to latex free gloves. 58% felt that their employer had been receptive in assisting them with their allergy and 25% had to change their occupation due to their NRL allergy.

CONCLUSION

The study concluded that employers, dentists and doctors are still not well informed on NRL allergies and how to assist their employees and patients. They are in need of further education and awareness of this common allergy and on how to address their patients' needs during treatment. Approximately 33% of patients had experienced difficulty with a latex allergy when visiting their physician. It is also important that employers' dentists and doctors address their employees' needs in the workplace.

References 1. Lewis et al., Natural rubber latex allergy: the impact on lifestyle and quality of life. *Contact Dermatitis*, 2004 Nov-Dec;51(5-6):317-8.

This summary is written and provided by Ansell Healthcare Products LLC. Ansell Healthcare has attempted to summarize the published study as accurately as possible, but makes no representation to the accuracy of the summary. We refer the reader to the actual study for additional information.