

GLOVE ALLERGIES: THE NEED FOR PREVENTION, NOT JUST PROTECTION

Mr. Tomohiro Kajikawa
Infection Control Educator

Fujita Health
University Hospital

How do you counter glove allergies in the O.R. and hospital wards?

Tomohiro Kajikawa: For the O.R. we instruct doctors and nurses to use non-latex gloves as well as to regularly remove gloves to relieve the stress on their hands.

We have received a lot of favorable feedback from those who suffer contact dermatitis regarding the improvements resulting from this hospital advice.

We also adopted usage of latex-free gloves in hospital wards and, similarly, received positive feedback regarding the improvement of skin problems on hands.

FACT FILE

NAME	Tomohiro Kajikawa
ROLE	Infection Control Educator
HOSPITAL	Fujita Health University Hospital
LOCATION	Aichi, Japan

Tomohiro Kajikawa: I'm Tomohiro Kajikawa from the Infection Control Room of Fujita Health University Hospital. I am in charge of education and other matters related to in-hospital infection control.

Why are glove protection and allergy prevention measures important?

Tomohiro Kajikawa: I think hand hygiene is the most important consideration for infection control.

However, if you have contact dermatitis due to an allergy, hand hygiene alone is not sufficient because of stimulation by the disinfectant or the inability to completely remove the bacterial pathogens.

As a result, it becomes difficult to prevent in-hospital infection. To avoid such situations, it is necessary to take preventative measures against allergic or contact dermatitis.



How will costs be impacted for measures taken to counter glove allergies?

Tomohiro Kajikawa: It has been highlighted that usage of latex-free gloves would be costly. However, hospital management, including the head of the hospital understands that it would be cost effective to undertake sufficient measures to prevent in-hospital infection, especially considering the high cost involved if an in-hospital infection outbreak happens.

Although latex-free gloves may be costly, we have unanimously agreed that we should use these gloves as a result of the more accurate cost calculation. According to the literature, a single outbreak of infection could wind up costing about 20 million yen until it is completely resolved.

Hospital management understands that the cost of gloves will offset against the expense of a potential outbreak.



What recommendations were helpful in dealing with glove allergies?

Tomohiro Kajikawa: The head of our hospital or director of the nursing department listened to the problems of hospital staff and took the appropriate measures. This resulted in an outpatient clinic for contact dermatitis.

We also developed a hand cream and introduced latex-free gloves. The fact that our hospital management had a good understanding of the problem was very helpful.

Watch the video of Mr. Kajikawa's story. [Click here](#)

ansell.com/nonlatex