SIDE EFFECTS TO THE HOSPITAL EMPLOYEES DURING THE USE OF DISINFECTANTS AND ANTISEPTICS IN THE CENTRAL STERILIZATION SERVICE DEPARTMENTS

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The investigation and documentation of the health problems that can be caused to the CSSD`s staff by the extensive but necessary use of:

- Detergents
- Disinfectants
- Antiseptics
during their work
Sample 111 employees from

- 18 large Hospital Units in Attica-Greece
- Duration: January to June of 2007
- Use of questionnaire consisted of 109 questions of both open and closed type as well as a personal interview.

Fields of questionnaire:

- Demographic data
- Investigation of the employment
- Investigation of the contact and expose in surgical instruments disinfectants
- Investigation of the musculoskeletal burden by the use of surgical instrument disinfectants during manual or automatic cleaning
- Investigation of contact and exposure in hand antiseptic
- Women (8.65%)
- Mean age: 39 years
- High school graduates (32.4%) and technological education institute graduates (29.7%)
- Hired as unspecialized personnel (53.9%)
- Adoption of a healthy behavior in their life style such as stop smoking, exercise, diet (68.5%)
38% from the allergic, declare allergic especially in disinfectants
DECLARED SYMPTOMS

- Suffer of bronchial asthma (26.1%) and thyroid illness (28.8%).
- Present migraines (26.1%).
- Complain of dermal illness (21.6%).
Deal with multitasking during their working hours.
CSSD WITH A DESIGNED PLACE FOR PREPARING DISINFECTANTS

Yes: 54.1%
No: 45.9%
PLACEMENT OF THE LOCKER ROOMS

81.40%

18.60%

0.00%

10.00%

20.00%

30.00%

40.00%

50.00%

60.00%

70.00%

80.00%

90.00%

% Ποσοστά

Just after entrance

Passage through CSSD’s facilities

Just after entrance

Passage through CSSD’s facilities
MIXING OF DISINFECTANTS

Yes: 19.3%
No: 80.7%
AWARENESS OF SAFETY DATA SHEETS BY THE PERSONNEL

No: 78%
Yes: 22%
USE OF PERSONAL PROTECTION MEANS DURING THE SURFACE DISINFECTION.

- Gloves 94.2%
- Robe 16.3%
- Mask 36.5%
- Cap 1.9%
- Glasses 3.8%

After surface disinfecting 30.6% has a headache.
70.3% of the employees take part in testing of every new product is offered to the hospital by the companies.
SIDE EFFECTS DURING THE TESTING
OF THE NEW DISINFECTANTS

- Headache: 23.9%
- Dyspnea: 43.5%
- Rashes: 17.4%
48.9% of the employees participate to manual cleaning of surgical instruments for a period of 30 minutes and more, at least 5-10 times a day.
SIDE EFFECTS DURING CLEANING OF SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS

- Headache (44%)
- Rashes (16%)
- Dyspnea (10%)
- Eye irritation (12%)
65% of employees uses hand antiseptics more than 10 times a day.

Side effects like xerosis and hand irritation has been developed (54,1%).
86.5% of the staff uses the same disinfectant (chlorine) at home as well as at work many times a day.
CONCLUSIONS

- The employees are not well informed and trained in the field of the safe use of chemical substances.
- During their working hours, multiple exposure conditions and side effects are noted, while at the same time lack of infrastructure and inadequate management, exacerbate the problem.
- It is imperative to use measures of precaution and continuous training of the employees for the correct use of the means of personal protection.
Thank you