Skin Protection
Skin Protection

Practical Applications in the Occupational Setting

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Foreword

Occupational dermatology is an exciting and very successful subspecialty of dermatology. While incidence and prevalence are increasing for other skin diseases like skin cancer or allergies, occupational dermatology has successfully developed prevention and secondary intervention programs for occupational skin diseases that have been proven to be successful and cost-effective.

The success of these programs is at least partially due to the use of skin protection products. While in the past they had been considered by some dermatologists with scepticism, within the last few years evidence has accumulated that these products may indeed be safe and effective tools of prevention. However, concerns remain, especially considering the possible percutaneous penetration enhancement of noxious work substances by skin protection agents. This underlines that more research is needed before the widespread use of skin protectants in high-risk workplaces can be advocated unequivocally.

We hope that the readers, especially dermatologists, occupational physicians and safety engineers, will draw support from this text for their daily work with skin protection products.

We are grateful to the international panel of distinguished authors that devoted so much time and effort to make this a useful text, and we would like to thank the staff of Karger AG, especially Ms. Ludwig and Ms. Anyawike, for their kind help with the project.

Sibylle Schliemann
Peter Elsner
Jena, 2006