



	<b>Title</b>	<b>Follow-up study of dental workers with removal of latex exposure</b>
	<b>Year</b>	<b>2000</b>
<b>CREOD Investigators</b>	Joan Saary, A Khanani, Susan Tarlo, Linn Holness	
<b>CREOD Research Program</b>	Occupational Skin Disease	
<b>Research Theme</b>	Prevention	
<b>Funder</b>	Unfunded	
<b>Product Type</b>	Student project	
<b>Background</b>	In the 1990's a high rate of latex allergy was found in dental workers. One of the possible reasons was the use of powdered latex gloves. A change to non-powdered gloves was introduced in a dental school as a prevention strategy.	
<b>Study Focus (Research Question/Goals/Methods)</b>	The objective of the study was to determine if the change to non-powered latex gloves led to a decrease in latex sensitivity in dental school staff and students. A survey was conducted including a questionnaire and skin prick testing to natural rubber latex extract. And results compared to a similar survey conducted when powdered latex gloves were in use.	
<b>Key Findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There was a reduction in itchy and urticaria and positive prick test to latex (3% vs 10%) in the follow-up survey.</li><li>• In students who had entered the school after the introduction of powder free gloves, no positive skin prick tests to latex were found.</li></ul>	
<b>Implications for Health/Labour Policy and Practice</b>	The use of non-powdered latex gloves may lead to a decrease in latex sensitization in health care workers.	
<b>Publication Information</b>	<u>Publications</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saary MJ, Tarlo SM, Kanani A, Holness DL. Reduction in rates of latex sensitivity among dental students and staff after changes in latex gloves. Am J Resp Crit Care Med 2001;163:A809.</li><li>• Saary MJ, Tarlo SM, Holness DL. Cutaneous complaints and exposure factors in dental students. Am J Contact Derm 2002;13:90.</li></ul> <u>Presentations</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Saary MJ, Tarlo SM, Holness DL. Cutaneous complaints and exposure factors in dental students. American Contact Dermatitis Society Annual Meeting, New Orleans, February 2002.</li></ul>	