



	<b>Title</b>	<b>Patch testing for auto mechanics</b>
	<b>Year</b>	<b>2005</b>
<b>CREOD Investigators</b>	Jeff Donovan, Irena Kudla, Linn Holness	
<b>CREOD Research Program</b>	Occupational Skin Disease	
<b>Research Theme</b>	Burden – identification of allergens, Health Services – diagnosis	
<b>Funder</b>	Unfunded	
<b>Product Type</b>	Student project	
<b>Background</b>	Auto mechanics are exposed to a number of workplace irritants and allergens. It is important to ensure the appropriate allergens are used for patch testing to increase the ability to detect contact allergy.	
<b>Study Focus (Research Question/Goals/ Methods)</b>	The objectives of the study were to compare the clinical features and patch test results of auto mechanics and machinists and propose additional allergens to be included on a mechanics tray. A retrospective chart review was conducted of all mechanics and machinists evaluated between 2002 and 2005 in the OHC at SMH. Clinical information and patch test results were abstracted.	
<b>Key Findings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 33 mechanics and 24 machinists were assessed.</li> <li>• Mechanics had longer years in their trade and averaged 3 year duration of hand dermatitis compared with 2 years for machinists.</li> <li>• Mechanics had a longer induction period and different exposure profile.</li> <li>• ½ of mechanics had a diagnosis of ACD, 85% identified on standard tray, 9% on Oils and Coolants Tray and 6% on mechanics tray.</li> </ul>	
<b>Implications for Health/Labour Policy and Practice</b>	Recommendations for additional allergens on the mechanics tray were made. This is likely to improve the sensitivity of patch testing in the diagnosis of ACD in mechanics.	
<b>Publication Information</b>	<p><u>Publications</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donovan JCH, Kudla I, Holness DL. Detection of allergic contact dermatitis in the automechanic: need for a new tray? <i>Dermatitis</i>, 2006;17:99.</li> <li>• Donovan JCH, Kudla I, Holness DL. An analysis of hand dermatitis in auto mechanics and machinists. <i>Dermatitis</i> 2007;18:143-149.</li> </ul> <p><u>Presentations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Donovan JCH, Kudla I, Holness DL. Detection of allergic contact dermatitis in the automechanic: need for a new tray? American Contact Dermatitis Society Annual Meeting, San Francisco, 2 March 2006.</li> <li>• Donovan J, Kudla I, Holness DL. Contact dermatitis in the automotive mechanic: improving diagnostic and preventive strategies in a multi disciplinary occupational health clinic. OEEESC 2007, Denver, June 2007.</li> </ul>	