

Risk factors for work-related dermatoses among farming students



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1. Background

Farmers are at highest risk of occupational skin diseases.



Therefore, prevention should start at the earliest phase: during farmers' vocational training.

2. Study settings and Aims

In order to identify risk factors for farm work-related skin diseases, a nationwide study of Polish farming students was carried out in 2001 and 2002.



* positive history before entering school (only statistically significant factors are shown)

3. Study group

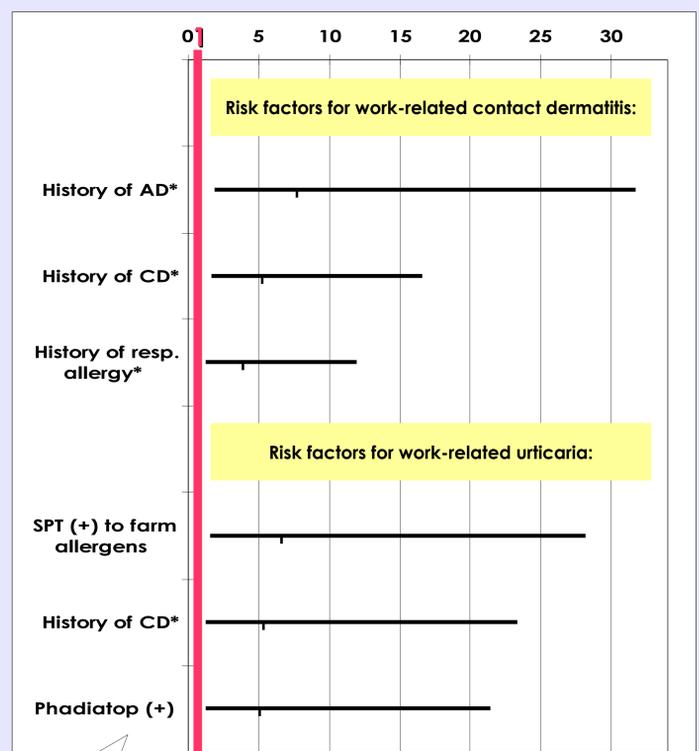
- 304 random students of 11 agricultural schools consented to participate in the study (participation rate 98%).
- The schools were at least 100 km from each another.
- The participants were 160 men and 144 women, aged from 17–21 years.

4. Methods

- The examinations included questionnaire, skin prick tests, patch tests, total IgE, farm-animal specific IgE and Phadiatop.
- For each of 144 variables, odds ratios (OR) were calculated (Mantel-Haenszel).
- Logistic regression model was used for the identification of main determining factors.

5. Results

- Skin diseases related to farm work were diagnosed in 18 of 304 farming students (5.9%, 95% CI: 3.3–8.6%):
- contact dermatitis in 10 students (3.3%, 95%CI: 1.3–5.3%),
- contact urticaria in 4 students (1.3%, 95%CI: 0.03–2.6%),
- both dermatitis and urticaria in 4 students (1.3%, 95%CI: 0.03–2.6%)



Conclusions:

Asking **simple questions** at the initial health check is **sufficient** for **identifying** farming students at **risk** for **work-related dermatitis**.

Asking **simple questions** combined with **simple allergy testing** (SPT, Phadiatop) is **sufficient** for **identifying** farming students at **risk** for **work-related urticaria**.



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