

Dry skin – no match for gloves with Neu-Thera® formulation



Medical Gloves with Neu-Thera®

Six months after Joli Lane started her job as an emergency department technician at Grays Harbor Hospital in Aberdeen, Washington, the backs of her hands started to break out in tiny blisters that broke open and itched.

It didn't take long for her to realize that the blisters indicated contact dermatitis, which is potentially caused by the medical gloves Lane wears for hours when she's on duty.

"It was on the backs of my hands only, and it started to clear up on my days off," she said. "It would get worse again when I went back to work, so I knew it was the gloves."

Dry skin and contact irritant dermatitis is a top concern for healthcare workers. Not only is it unattractive and uncomfortable, it is a deterrent to hand-hygiene policies that call for regular hand washing, and it opens workers to microorganisms, chemicals and other potentially dangerous fluids.

As an ED tech, Lane performs such duties as wiping down beds, cleaning suture trays and removing soiled linens in a department that sees 25,000 patients every year. As the mother of a small child, she is concerned about what she could take home.

"We see a lot of patients, and I don't like to even pick up bedding without gloves," she said. "I'm in gloves pretty much the whole eight-hour shift when I work."

Lane tried using petroleum jelly and various lotions as well as switching to latex-free nitrile gloves, but succeeded only in finding a lotion that alleviated some of the itching. The condition was

getting severe enough that she wasn't certain she could continue to do the job she loves.

Her supervisor, Linda Hubbard, was having doubts, as well.

"It was really uncomfortable for her to have that breakout on her hands," said Hubbard, assistant manager of the emergency department. "It didn't look nice and it was sore and irritated. Joli loves her job, and she would probably have kept on doing it, but I didn't think it was right for her to work like that."

Fortunately, before any difficult decisions had to be made, Hubbard met a Cardinal Health representative at a conference.

"He told me about these new gloves that were supposed to be really good for people's hands," she said. "I thought it was worth a try, so I had him send me a box."

The box contained Cardinal Health's gloves with Neu-Thera® formulation – medical gloves that are clinically proven to improve skin condition. In addition to moisturizing skin, Neu-Thera®-treated gloves **restore texture and protect hands from moisture loss** with a proprietary formulation that was developed specifically for healthcare workers.

The exam gloves include gluconolactone, glycerin and provitamin B5 in proportions that were determined to provide maximum benefits during extensive development and testing.

The gloves underwent rigorous study at the PRACS Institute for Dermatology. In tests that were overseen by a board-certified



Treat your hands well™
while you treat your patients


dermatologist, clinicians whose hands were compromised wore gloves with Neu-Thera® formulation to perform their regular duties. There was a significant, measurable improvement in their skin.

Lane wasn't sure what to expect, but welcomed anything that might help. The results were dramatic.

"I noticed a difference right away," she said. "I had been off a few days when I started wearing the gloves, so my hands were starting to clear up. The dermatitis totally went away in about a week, and it hasn't come back."

Not only have the gloves caused Lane's daughter to stop saying "owie" when she sees her mother's hands, they also help Lane do her job more effectively. Hubbard has been so impressed with the gloves that she has ordered more for other employees to try, since dry skin and dermatitis is a widespread issue. Lane expects everyone to appreciate the gloves, even if they don't suffer the same level of damage she had to her hands. Regardless of how anyone else feels, though, she is certain of her own sentiments: **"The gloves with Neu-Thera® are easy to put on, and they fit well.** I love those gloves, and I hope they're always around."

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