

THOR ROI

The Health and Occupation Research network in the Republic of Ireland

Centre for Occupational and Environmental Health

The University of Manchester

<http://research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/epidemiology/COEH/research/thor/schemes/ireland/>

**Dr Annemarie Money, Dr Ana Barradas, Dr Martin Seed & Prof Martie Van Tongeren,
December 2019**

INTERIM REPORT, covering the reporting period: July to September 2019

Dear colleague,

I am pleased to enclose the latest Interim Report of the THOR-ROI schemes, summarising the data that were collected from July to September 2019. We have received fewer cases than during the same period last year, which could be because of reduced work-related ill-health, due to reporting fatigue or a combination of these two. We would like to encourage you to send us your report, even if you have not seen any patients with work-related disease. Please let us know if and how we can improve the reporting process so that this takes as little of your time as possible!

The Lane Lecture this year was delivered by Dr Jenny Hoyle on Tuesday 5 November. Jenny gave a fabulous lecture on the UK SWORD scheme and the impact this project has had over the 30 years of its existence. You can find the slides from her presentation as well as other presentations from the day on our website

(<http://research.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/epidemiology/COEH/aboutus/lectures/>)

Best wishes for the festive season and Happy New Year!



Martie Van Tongeren
Professor of Occupational and Environmental Health

BACKGROUND

This document provides a brief update of the cases reported to the various THOR-ROI reporting schemes during the inclusive period July to September 2019. This should not be viewed as a 'stand-alone' document but as a supplement to previous interim quarterly reports and 'substantive' annual reports (the most recent of which was submitted in Sept 2019).

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

Reporters to THOR-ROI returned 18 cases and 13 nil returns¹. The number of cases, nil returns and participating physicians for the quarter July – Sept 2019, compared to the same quarter in 2018, are provided in Table 1.

Table 1 Number of physicians, cases and nil returns reported by scheme July-Sept 2019 and July-Sept 2018

	July – Sept 2019			July – Sept 2018*		
	Physicians	Cases	Nil returns	Physicians	Cases	Nil returns
OPRA	27	11	8	30	45	11
EPIDERM	13	2	5	12	5	4
SWORD	10	5	0	11	6	6
THOR-GP	20	0	0	22	1	2

*NB, totals may have increased from previous reporting due to the submission of late cases

OVERVIEW OF CASES BY SCHEME

OPRA-ROI

The 27 occupational physicians currently reporting to OPRA-ROI returned 11 case reports and 8 nil returns during the third quarter of 2019, taking the total number of cases returned by OPs since the scheme commenced in 2007 to 1881. 73% of the cases reported to OPRA-ROI this quarter were females and the age range (all cases) was 25 to 59 years (mean age = 45 years).

The 11 cases reported this quarter comprised 7 mental ill-health problems, 3 musculoskeletal disorders and 1 case of work-related respiratory disease. No skin or hearing loss cases were reported this quarter.

¹ nil return = a physician tells us that they did not see any cases of work-related ill-health in their reporting month

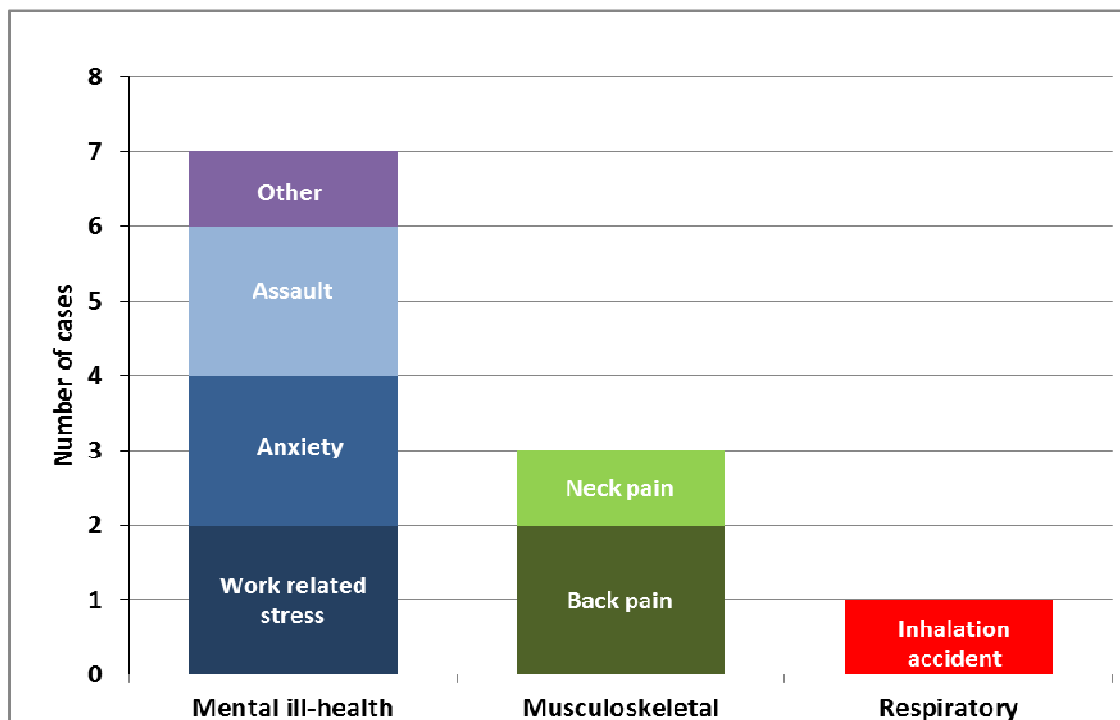


Figure 1 Cases of work-related ill-health by main diagnostic category reported to OPRA-ROI (July-September 2019)

Diagnostic sub-categories:

Figure 1 provides an overview of the cases reported this quarter by diagnostic sub-category:

- The 7 mental ill-health cases were specified as follows: work-related stress (2 cases, attributed to unspecified stress and conflict at work); anxiety (2 cases attributed to assault at work and demotion); assault (2 cases); other (traumatic event at work – 1 case).
- The 3 musculoskeletal disorders were reported under the following anatomical sites: back (2 cases attributed to manual handling); and neck problems (1 case attributed to manual handling).
- The respiratory case was recorded as an inhalation accident attributed to cleaning agents.

Industry and occupation:

All cases reported were from the health and social care sector, and the occupations reported within this sector were nurses (5/11 = 45%), clerical assistants (3/11 = 27%), care assistants and auxiliaries (2/11 = 18%), and hospital porter (1/11 = 9%).

EPIDERM-ROI

The 13 dermatologists currently reporting to EPIDERM-ROI returned 2 cases of work-related skin disease and 5 nil returns for the third quarter of 2019 (total ever cases = 507).

Both cases were reported as contact dermatitis. One diagnosis was specified as allergic contact dermatitis reported in a female nail technician attributed to acrylates. One diagnosed as irritant contact dermatitis reported in a gardener attributed to nickel and rubber chemicals.

SWORD-ROI

5 cases of work-related respiratory disease were reported to SWORD-ROI in the third quarter of 2019. Total cases ever reported = 216. All cases were reported in males with a mean age of 65 years (age range 48-81 years). The cases were diagnosed as follows: non-malignant pleural disease (NMPD), 2 cases reported in construction labourers attributed to asbestos exposure; 1 case of lung cancer reported in a construction labourer attributed to asbestos exposure; 1 case of occupational asthma in a factory worker attributed to coolants; 1 case (undiagnosed) in a construction labourer attributed to silica.

THOR-GP-ROI

No cases of work-related ill-health were reported to THOR-GP-ROI in the third quarter of 2019.

CASE OF THE QUARTER

We are always happy to receive Case of the Quarter reports from participating physicians to include in our quarterly reports. These are short reports of around 250 words that are written about a case of interest seen by reporters to the schemes. It is an opportunity to inform fellow reporters of unusual cases and share experiences in treatment and diagnosis; we hope you find these as interesting and informative as we do.

Many thanks this quarter to Dr Glenda Hill (Consultant Dermatologist) and Dr Dalia Saidely Alsaadi (Dermatology Registrar) at Wrexham Maelor Hospital for submitting the following report which describes a case of aquagenic wrinkling of the palms (AWP).

If you would like to submit a case report then please contact us for further information (Table 2)

Case of the Quarter

We present a case of a 23 year old patient who changed her career as a beauty therapist due to wrinkling and fissuring of the skin on her palms. She had noticed that when her hands were wet for repeated and prolonged periods of time whilst using oils and water for facials, her palmar skin would become sore and swollen, with prominent wrinkling. On further questioning, it was noted that similar exacerbations would occur when her palms sweat and she reported noticing prominent wrinkling of her palms on both short (2 – 5 minutes) and prolonged immersion in water since the age of 16. If her hands had prolonged contact with water, she often developed cracking in the finger web spaces and central palms. She had a history of axillary and popliteal fossa eczema as a teenager, and still suffers with occasional hand eczema. Interestingly, her mother also has a history of marked wrinkling of the palms on contact with water, as well as atopic eczema.

Based on this history, a diagnosis of aquagenic wrinkling of the palms (AWP) was made. Given the history of potential occupational exposures and some eczematous changes, she was patch tested to the British standard, medicament, steroid, and acrylate series; all of which were negative.

Since AWP is strongly associated with cystic fibrosis (CF), the patient went on to have both genetic testing and a sweat test which excluded CF in her case. This case highlights the importance of being mindful of such rare dermatoses which may present to patch test clinic given potential exacerbations with both personal and occupational exposures.

Dr Glenda Hill (Consultant Dermatologist) and Dr Dalia Saidely Alsaadi (Dermatology Registrar) Wrexham Maelor Hospital

DISSEMINATION

Mr Kieran Sludds, Health and Safety Authority, attended the annual Lane Lecture at the University of Manchester, on Tuesday 5th November 2019.

THOR-ROI data was presented at the following events:

Dr Johnny Bourke (EPIDERM-ROI champion) presented a poster at the Irish Association of Dermatologists, Thursday 26th & Friday 27th September 2019 - Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo

Dr Ana Barradas (COEH) gave an oral presentation to the Irish Thoracic Society meeting held at The Galmont Hotel, Galway on 22nd and 23rd November 2019.

REMINDER OF HOW WE CAN HELP YOU

We are very keen to collaborate with anyone who is interested in using the THOR-ROI or THOR-UK data to investigate a particular area of interest. Furthermore, please let us know if you would like to present THOR-ROI or THOR-UK data at any future meetings; simply email Annemarie.money@manchester.ac.uk.

THOR CONTACTS

Table 2 provides contact details for the THOR team. Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries.

Table 2 THOR-ROI Contact details

SCHEME	email	phone
EPIDERM / SWORD	laura.byrne@manchester.ac.uk	+44 (0) 161 275 7103
OPRA / THOR-GP	Susan.taylor@manchester.ac.uk	+44 (0) 161 275 5531
DATA REQUESTS / GENERAL ENQUIRIES	Annemarie.money@manchester.ac.uk Ana.barradas@manchester.ac.uk	+44 (0) 161 275 8492