Validation of a self-administered questionnaire for skin problems in the workplace.

Occupational skin disorders (OSDs) are a frequent cause of workplace health concerns. Current sources of data are unable to accurately describe the nature and occurrence of OSDs at the workplace level, and additional tools are needed. The development and validation of standardized tools to assess the prevalence and significance of OSDs is a critical need, and can play a role in workplace surveys, epidemiological studies, and assessment of interventions. We have developed a brief, self-administered questionnaire to identify individuals with OSDs, which can be used to assess magnitude and distribution of these disorders in workplaces. We propose a study to test the validity of the questionnaire’s assessment with a diagnosis based on medical evaluation. Once validated and distributed, the tool can have broad use by occupational health and safety professionals, epidemiologists, employers, and others. Hence, the project has clear Research To Practice (R2P) implications.