



# PROTECTIVE GLOVES AND LATEX ALLERGY

Natalija Pejnović

Croatian Institute for Health Protection and Safety at Work

## Introduction

Number of persons allergic to latex increases permanently, especially among health workers, which is connected with an increased use of protective gloves made of natural rubber (latex) when at work.

## Aim and Methods

Correct selection of gloves avoids harmful health consequences. The aim of this paper is to indicate the possibility of using the gloves made of other materials that are not harmful for the health of workers, but having equally appropriate properties as the gloves made of latex.

## Risks groups

- Hairdressers



- Health care professions



## Frequent exposure to latex



- Gloves



- Blood pressure cuffs



- Stethoscopes



- Balloons

# Risks

## Latex Allergy

- 1% do 6% general population
- 5% do 44% health care professions

# Prevention

## Results

There is a direct relationship between the reduction of exposure to latex and the reduction of allergies to latex.

An appropriate substitution for the latex gloves can be achieved by using protective gloves made of other materials, e.g. nitril rubber, neoprene rubber or PVC (PolyVinyl Chloride).

## Consequences



- Contact dermatitis



- Irritative dermatitis

- Avoid all latex containing products

- Handwashing



- Using latex free gloves



## Conclusion

Employees in whom allergy to latex has been diagnosed should:

- use only latex-free gloves,
- avoid all latex containing products,
- inform their employer about allergy to latex,
- obey medical instructions.

