

Nº 7

Boletín LADEP

Boletín Nº7 - 2º Trimestre 2010

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Boletín LADEP

Boletín Nº7 - 2º Trimestre 2010 (Abril - Junio)

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REVISTAS INTERNACIONALES CONSULTADAS

- AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE
- JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY
- INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF HYGIENE AND ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
- OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE
- OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE
- SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF WORK ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH

REVISTAS NACIONALES CONSULTADAS

- ARCHIVOS DE PREVENCIÓN DE RIESGOS LABORALES
- MEDICINA Y SEGURIDAD DEL TRABAJO
- REVISTA DE LA SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE MEDICINA Y SEGURIDAD DEL TRABAJO

Artículo Nº1

Revista: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE - 53(4): 405-16, 2010

Título

Work, unseen hazards: The health of women immigrant household service workers in Spain (Los riesgos de trabajos, invisibles: la salud de los trabajadores de servicio doméstico de las mujeres inmigrantes en España)

Autores

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Fondo

Background. Household service work has been largely absent from occupational health studies. We examine the occupational hazards and health effects identified by immigrant women household service workers.

Métodos

Methods. Exploratory, descriptive study of 46 documented and undocumented immigrant women in household services in Spain, using a phenomenological approach. Data were collected between September 2006 and May 2007 through focus groups and semi-structured individual interviews. Data were separated for analysis by documentation status and sorted using a mixed-generation process. In a second phase of analysis, data on psychosocial hazards were organized using the Copenhagen Psychosocial Questionnaire as a guide.

Resultados

Results. Informants reported a number of environmental, ergonomic and psychosocial hazards and corresponding health effects. Psychosocial hazards were especially strongly present in data. Data on reported hazards were similar by documentation status and varied by several emerging categories: whether participants were primarily cleaners or carers and whether they lived in or outside of the homes of their employers. Documentation status was relevant in terms of empowerment and bargaining, but did not appear to influence work tasks or exposure to hazards directly.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Female immigrant household service workers are exposed to a variety of health hazards that could be acted upon by improved legislation, enforcement, and preventive workplace measures, which are discussed. Am. J. Ind. Med. 53:405-416, 2010. © 2009 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

Palabras Claves

Key terms. Immigrant, migrant, household service, occupational health, psychosocial hazards, ergonomic hazards, environmental hazards, wellbeing.

Artículo Nº2

Revista: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE - 53(5):463-75, 2010

Título*Prevalence of asthma by industry and occupation in the U.S. working population (Prevalencia de asma por la industria y ocupación en la población de trabajo de EE.UU.)***Autores**Michelle K. McHugh, MS, PhD¹, Elaine Symanski, PhD^{2*}, Lisa A. Pompeii, PhD², George L. Delclos, MD, MPH, PhD¹¹Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas²Division of Epidemiology and Disease Control, The University of Texas School of Public Health, Houston, Texas**Fondo****Background.** Workers are potentially exposed to asthmagens daily. Our study was conducted to estimate the prevalence of asthma among working adults in the U.S. by industry and occupation.**Métodos****Methods.** Using data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (2001-2004), multiple logistic regression was used to investigate associations between industry and occupation and current asthma as defined by positive responses to Has a doctor or other health professional ever told you that you have asthma? and Do you still have asthma?**Resultados****Results.** Workers in mining (17.0%), health-related industries (12.5%), teaching (13.1%), or in health-related occupations (12.6%) had the highest prevalence of asthma. As compared to construction industry workers, workers in mining (aOR = 5.2, 95% CI: 1.1-24.2) or health-related (aOR = 2.3, 95% CI: 1.1-4.8) industries had significantly higher odds of asthma.**Conclusiones****Conclusions.** Our study adds to the increasing evidence that miners, healthcare workers and teachers remain high-risk working populations and appropriate evaluation and control measures are needed to protect these workers. Am. J. Ind. Med. 53:463-475, 2010. © 2010 Wiley-Liss, Inc.**Palabras Claves****Key terms.** Asthma, adult asthma, epidemiology, prevalence, NHANES, occupation, industry.

Artículo Nº3

Revista: AMERICAN JOURNAL OF INDUSTRIAL MEDICINE - 53(6): 552-560, 2010

Título

Impact of musculoskeletal and medical conditions on disability retirement - a longitudinal study among construction roofers (Impacto de las condiciones musculoesqueléticas y médicas sobre discapacidad jubilación - un estudio longitudinal entre techadores de construcción)

Autores

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Fondo

Background. To assess the intersection of work demands, chronic medical and musculoskeletal conditions, aging, and disability, we initiated a longitudinal study of construction roofers who were current union members between the ages of 40 and 59.

Métodos

Methods. Participants were asked about the presence of medical conditions and musculoskeletal disorders; the Work Limitations Questionnaire, the SF-12, and other validated assessments of social and economic impact of injury were included.

Resultados

Results. Factors at baseline that predicted leaving for a health-related reason were older age, lower physical functioning, work limitations, and having missed work. Those who left roofing for a health-related reason were much more likely to have a lower economic score at the 1 year interview.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Medical and musculoskeletal conditions are strongly associated with work limitation, missed work, and reduced physical functioning; these factors are also associated with premature departure from the workforce. Am. J. Ind. Med. 53: 552-560, 2010. © 2010 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

Palabras Claves

Key terms. Injury, job accommodation, low back pain, occupation, work ability, work.

Artículo Nº4

Revista: JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY - 2010, 5:6

Título

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders in the automotive industry due to repetitive work - implications for rehabilitation (Trastornos musculoesqueléticos relacionados con el trabajo en la industria automotriz debido a los trabajos repetidos - implicaciones para la rehabilitación)

Autores

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Fondo

Background. Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs) due to repetitive work are common in manufacturing industries, such as the automotive industry. However, it's still unclear which MSDs of the upper limb are to be expected in the automotive industry in a first aid unit as well as in occupational precaution examinations. It is also unclear which examination method could be performed effectively for practical reasons and under rehabilitation aspects. Additionally, it was to discuss whether the conception of unspecific description for MSDs has advantages or disadvantages in contrast to a precise medical diagnosis.

Métodos

Methods. We investigated the health status of two study populations working at two automotive plants in Germany. The first part included 67 consecutive patients who were seen for acute or chronic MSDs at the forearm over a 4-month period at the plants' medical services. Information about patients' working conditions and musculoskeletal symptoms was obtained during a standardized interview, which was followed by a standardized orthopedic-chiropractic physical examination. In the second part, 209 workers with daily exposure to video display terminals (VDT) completed a standardized questionnaire and were examined with function-oriented muscular tests on the occasion of their routine occupational precaution medical check-up.

Resultados

Results. The majority of the 67 patients seen by the company's medical services were blue-collar workers from the assembly lines and trainees rather than white-collar workers from offices. Rates of musculoskeletal complaints were disproportionately higher among experienced people performing new tasks and younger trainees. The most common MSD in this group were disorders of flexor tendons of the forearm. By contrast, among the 209 employees working at VDT disorders of the neck and shoulders were more common than discomfort in the forearm. A positive tendency between restricted rotation of the cervical vertebrae and years worked at VDT was observed. In addition, only less than 8% of unspecific disorders of the upper limb (esp. wrist and forearm) were found.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Functional tests for the upper limb seemed to be very helpful to give precise medical advice to the employees to prevent individual complaints. The results are also helpful for developing specific training programs before beginning new tasks as well as for rehabilitation reasons. There's no need to use uncertain terminology (such as RSI) as it may not be representative of the actual underlying disorders as diagnosed by more thorough physical examinations.

Artículo Nº5

Revista: JOURNAL OF OCCUPATIONAL MEDICINE AND TOXICOLOGY - 2010, 5:13

Título

Use of alcohol and drugs by Norwegian employees: a pilot study using questionnaires and analysis of oral fluid (Uso de alcohol y drogas por parte de empleados noruegos: un estudio piloto mediante cuestionarios y análisis de fluidos orales)

Autores

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Fondo

Background. The use of alcohol and drugs may affect workplace safety and productivity. Little is known about the magnitude of this problem in Norway.

Métodos

Methods. Employee recruitment methods with or without individual follow-up were compared. The employees filled in a questionnaire and provided a sample of oral fluid. Samples were analysed for alcohol, ethyl glucuronide (EtG; a biological marker of recent large alcohol intake), psychoactive medicinal drugs and illegal drugs.

Resultados

Results. Participation rates with and without individual follow-up were 96% and 68%, respectively. Alcohol was negative (≤ 0.1 mg/ml) in all samples, but 21.0% reported the intake of alcohol during the last 24 h. EtG was positive (> 2.2 ng/ml) in 2.1% of the samples. In-efficiency or hangover at work during the past year was reported by 24.3%, while 6.2% had been absent from work due to the use of alcohol. The combination of self-report and analytical testing indicated that medicinal or illegal drugs had been used during the last 48 h by 5.1% and 1.7% of the participants, respectively; while only 4.2% and 0.4% admitted the use in the questionnaire.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Self-reported data suggest that hangover after drinking alcohol appears to be the largest substance abuse problem at Norwegian workplaces, resulting in absence and inefficiency at work. Analysis of oral fluid revealed that the use of illegal drugs was more common than drinking alcohol before working or at the workplace. The analysis of oral fluid may be a valuable tool in obtaining additional information on alcohol and drug use compared to using questionnaires alone.

Artículo Nº6

Revista: OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE - 2010;67:256-262

Título*Justice at work and metabolic syndrome: the Whitehall II study (Justicia en el trabajo y el síndrome metabólico: el estudio de Whitehall II)***Autores**

David Gimeno

Objetivos

Objectives. Growing evidence shows that high levels of justice are beneficial for employee health, although biological mechanisms underlying this association are yet to be clarified. We aim to test whether high justice at work protects against metabolic syndrome.

Métodos

Methods. A prospective cohort study of 20 civil service departments in London (the Whitehall II study) including 6123 male and female British civil servants aged 35-55 years without prevalent coronary heart disease at baseline (1985-1990). Perceived justice at work was determined by means of questionnaire on two occasions between 1985 and 1990. Follow-up for metabolic syndrome and its components occurring from 1990 to 2004 was based on clinical assessments on three occasions over more than 18 years.

Resultados

Results. Cox proportional hazard models adjusted for age, ethnicity and employment grade showed that men who experienced a high level of justice at work had a lower risk of incident metabolic syndrome than employees with a low level of justice (HR 0.75; 95% CI 0.63 to 0.89). There was little evidence of an association between organisational justice and metabolic syndrome or its components in women (HR 0.88; 95% CI 0.67 to 1.17).

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Our prospective findings provide evidence of an association between high levels of justice at work and the development of metabolic syndrome in men.

Artículo Nº7

Revista: OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE - 2010;67:323-329 doi:10.1136

Título

Identifying pesticide use patterns among flower growers to assess occupational exposure to mixtures (Identificación de patrones de uso de plaguicidas entre los cultivadores de flor para evaluar la exposición ocupacional a las mezclas)

Autores

Astrid Schilmann, Andalusian School of Public Health.

Objetivos

Objectives. Exposure assessment to a single pesticide does not capture the complexity of the occupational exposure. Recently, pesticide use patterns analysis has emerged as an alternative to study these exposures. The aim of this study is to identify the pesticide use pattern among flower growers in Mexico participating in the study on the endocrine and reproductive effects associated with pesticide exposure.

Métodos

Methods. A cross-sectional study was carried out to gather retrospective information on pesticide use applying a questionnaire to the person in charge of the participating flower growing farms. Information about seasonal frequency of pesticide use (rainy and dry) for the years 2004 and 2005 was obtained. Principal components analysis was performed.

Resultados

Results. Complete information was obtained for 88 farms and 23 pesticides were included in the analysis. Six principal components were selected, which explained more than 70% of the data variability. The identified pesticide use patterns during both years were: 1. fungicides benomyl, carbendazim, thiophanate and metalaxyl (both seasons), including triadimephon during the rainy season, chlorotalonyl and insecticide permethrin during the dry season; 2. insecticides oxamyl, biphenthrin and fungicide iprodione (both seasons), including insecticide methomyl during the dry season; 3. fungicide mancozeb and herbicide glyphosate (only during the rainy season); 4. insecticides metamidophos and parathion (both seasons); 5. insecticides omethoate and methomyl (only rainy season); and 6. insecticides abamectin and carbofuran (only dry season). Some pesticides do not show a clear pattern of seasonal use during the studied years.

Artículo Nº8

Revista: OCCUPATIONAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE - 2010;67:375-386

Título

Occupational determinants of serum cholinesterase inhibition among organophosphate-exposed agricultural pesticide handlers in Washington State (Profesionales determinantes de la inhibición de la colinesterasa de suero entre los controladores de plaguicidas agrícolas organofosforado expuestas en el estado de Washington)

Autores

Jonathan N Hofmann.

Objetivos

Objectives. To identify potential risk factors for serum cholinesterase (BuChE) inhibition among agricultural pesticide handlers exposed to organophosphate (OP) and N-methyl-carbamate (CB) insecticides.

Métodos

Methods. We conducted a longitudinal study among 154 agricultural pesticide handlers who participated in the Washington State cholinesterase monitoring program in 2006 and 2007. BuChE inhibition was analysed in relation to reported exposures before and after adjustment for potential confounders using linear regression. ORs estimating the risk of BuChE depression (>20% from baseline) were also calculated for selected exposures based on unconditional logistic regression analyses.

Resultados

Results. An overall decrease in mean BuChE activity was observed among study participants at the time of follow-up testing during the OP/CB spray season relative to pre-season baseline levels (mean decrease of 5.6%, $p < 0.001$). Score for estimated cumulative exposure to OP/CB insecticides in the past 30 days was a significant predictor of BuChE inhibition ($\beta = -1.74$, $p < 0.001$). Several specific work practices and workplace conditions were associated with greater BuChE inhibition, including mixing/loading pesticides and cleaning spray equipment. Factors that were protective against BuChE inhibition included full-face respirator use, wearing chemical-resistant boots and storing personal protective equipment in a locker at work.

Conclusiones

Conclusions. Despite existing regulations, agricultural pesticide handlers continue to be exposed to OP/CB insecticides at levels resulting in BuChE inhibition. These findings suggest that modifying certain work practices could potentially reduce BuChE inhibition. Replication from other studies will be valuable.

Artículo Nº9

Revista: SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF WORK ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH - 2010;36(3):231-241

Título*Historical exposure to mercury among Norwegian dental personnel (Histórica exposición al mercurio entre noruego personal odontológico)***Autores**

Svendsen K, Syversen T, Melø I, Hilt B

Objetivos

Objective. Due to public concern in Scandinavian countries about the health situation of dental nurses, the Norwegian Ministry of Labor and Social Inclusion initiated a project to look at previous exposure to metallic mercury and its possible effects on dental personnel. The aims of this part of the study were to: (i) describe Norwegian dental personnel's exposure to mercury during the last 50 years, (ii) develop a model for scoring that reflects the cumulative exposure on an individual basis, and (iii) relate the calculated score to earlier measured levels of mercury in urine.

Métodos

Methods. We obtained lists of previous and current dental employees in both the private and public sector and mailed them a questionnaire concerning their working conditions. We received a response from 655 dental nurses and 452 dentists. We also obtained urine mercury levels measured between 1970-1990 for 143 (22%) of the dental nurses and 130 (29%) of the dentists.

Resultados

Results. The results revealed a widespread exposure to mercury in both the individual exposure score and the measured mercury values in urine. For most respondents, however, the level of exposure to mercury seemed to be low. The use of copper amalgam, which is heated before it is applied, is of particular concern as a significant source of mercury exposure in dental personnel.

Conclusiones

Conclusion. It seems evident that the exposure to mercury among dental personnel varies substantially; this is important to take into account when making exposure assessments for this group of workers.

Palabras Claves

Key terms. Amalgam; copper amalgam; dental nurse; dental personnel; dentist; exposure; exposure assessment; historical exposure; mercury; Norway; nurse.

Artículo Nº10

Revista: SCANDINAVIAN JOURNAL OF WORK ENVIRONMENT & HEALTH - 2010;36(4):289-298

Título

A review of case studies evaluating economic incentives to promote occupational safety and health (Una revisión de estudios de caso, evaluación de incentivos económicos para promover la seguridad y la salud)

Autores

Elsler D, Treutlein D, Rydlewska I, Frusteri L, Krüger H, Veerman T, Eeckelaert L, Roskams N, Van Den Broek K, Taylor TN

Objetivos

Objective. In many European countries, external economic incentives are discussed as a policy instrument to promote occupational safety and health (OSH) in enterprises. This narrative case study review aims to support policy-makers in organizations providing such incentives by supplying information about different incentive schemes and their main characteristics such as effectiveness, efficiency, and feasibility.

Métodos

Methods. The focal point and topic centre network of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work were used to collect case studies about incentive schemes aimed at supporting the prevention of occupational accidents and diseases in enterprises. Such incentives are rarely described in the scientific literature. To be considered for this review, studies had to focus on external financial benefits that could be provided as part of an insurance-related incentive or a governmental subsidy scheme.

Resultados

Results. In total, 14 cases were included in the review: 6 insurance premium- and 8 subsidy-based schemes. Of these, 13 contained an evaluation of the incentive scheme, of which 7 use quantitative criteria. Three cases provided sufficient data to conduct a cost-benefit analysis. Most qualitative evaluations related to the successful management of the program and the effectiveness of the promoted measures in the workplace. Regarding the latter, quantitative criteria covered accident rates, sick leave, and general improvement in working conditions. The cost-benefit analyses all resulted in a positive payout ratio, ranging from €1.01-4.81 return for every €1 invested.

Conclusiones

Conclusion. Generally, we found economic incentive schemes to be feasible and reasonably effective. However, analysis regarding the efficiency of such schemes is scarce and our evaluation of the cost-benefit analysis had to rely on few cases that, nevertheless, delivered positive results for large samples. Besides this finding, our study also revealed deficits in the quality of evaluations. In order to enable policy-makers to make well-informed decisions about public investments in OSH, better standards for reporting and evaluating incentive schemes are needed.

Palabras Claves

Key terms. Case study; cost-benefit analysis; economic incentive; economics; evaluation; external economic incentive; occupational health and safety; occupational safety and health; OSH; promotion; review

Artículo Nº11

Revista: ARCHIVOS DE PREVENCIÓN DE RIESGOS LABORALES - 2010; 13 (2): 74-83

Título*Confort térmico en condiciones ambientales de frío: determinación del aislamiento requerido del atuendo mediante método iterativo***Autores**

Santiago Eloy Rivera Garrido

Objetivo

Diseñar con el programa Excel una herramienta para la determinación del aislamiento requerido del atuendo (IREQ), tiempo máximo de permanencia (Tmax) y tiempo de recuperación (Trec) para exposición laboral a frío y aplicarlo a la industria cárnica.

Métodos:

Se midieron y comprobaron las condiciones ambientales en una industria cárnica. Se determinó el metabolismo de los puestos a partir de un estudio de tareas y se comparó con el obtenido, mediante seis ecuaciones diferentes, a partir de la frecuencia cardíaca medida en los trabajadores. Para comprobar la efectividad de los métodos, una vez obtenidos los valores de IREQ, Tmax y Trec se realizó una medición de la temperatura en la superficie de la piel y de la ropa y una encuesta del grado de satisfacción de los trabajadores.

Resultados

Se observa la mejor concordancia de metabolismos con los datos obtenidos mediante la ecuación de Karvonen modificada y el VO2max determinado. La herramienta diseñada permite obtener los valores de IREQ, Tmax y Trec. La encuesta arroja resultado de confort térmico con la excepción de una sección de trabajo. La medición de las temperaturas superficiales no siempre resulta eficaz para la comprobación de los datos obtenidos.

Conclusiones

Resulta posible determinar IREQ, Tmax y Trec de un puesto de trabajo mediante la herramienta diseñada, conociendo la frecuencia cardíaca y los datos ambientales. Debe mejorarse la exactitud en la determinación de los metabolismos.

Palabras Claves

Frío, percepción, ropa protectora, metabolismo.

Artículo Nº12

Revista: MEDICINA Y SEGURIDAD DEL TRABAJO - 2010; 56 (218): 39-48

Título*Incapacidad vocal en docentes de la provincia de Huelva***Autores**

Francisco Javier Barbero-Díaz, Carlos Ruiz-Frutos, Amaranto del Barrio Mendoza, Eladia Bejarano Domínguez, Antonio Alarcón Gey

Introducción

La prevalencia de trastornos de la voz en docentes en nuestro entorno se sitúa entre el 34% y 57%. Desde el año 2006 la patología por nódulos de las cuerdas vocales se considera enfermedad profesional. El Índice de Incapacidad Vocal es una herramienta validada para valorar el menoscabo asociado a la disfonía que percibe la persona.

Objetivos

Valorar el impacto de la disfonía y las posibles diferencias en la incapacidad vocal entre factores relacionados con la disfonía.

Material y Métodos

Durante el examen de salud voluntario los docentes son interrogados sobre síntomas de disfonía y cumplimentan el Índice de Incapacidad Vocal.

Resultados

Los docentes con incapacidad moderada y severa representan el 16,6% y 1,2% respectivamente. Un 50,9% han presentado síntomas de disfonía en algún momento de su vida laboral. Se encuentran diferencias significativas en la incapacidad vocal según el diagnóstico de nódulos de cuerdas vocales, la presencia de síntomas y el número de síntomas.

Artículo Nº13

Revista: REVISTA DE LA SOCIEDAD ESPAÑOLA DE MEDICINA Y SEGURIDAD DEL TRABAJO
- 2010; 5(1): 9-18

Título

Impacto de la introducción de alitretinoína oral en los costes del eczema de las manos severo de origen profesional desde la perspectiva de las mutuas de accidentes de trabajo y enfermedades profesionales en España.

Autores

José Manuel Mascaró, Ignacio Querol-Nasarre, Leandro Lindner, Mercedes Prior, Jaime Oliver, Ralf Halbach.

Objetivo

Estimar el impacto de la introducción de alitretinoína oral en los costes del eczema de las manos severo de origen profesional (EMOP) en pacientes refractarios a corticoides tópicos, desde la óptica de las mutuas de accidentes de trabajo y enfermedades profesionales de la Seguridad Social en España.

Métodos

Se ha diseñado un modelo de análisis de decisión para estimar el coste asociado al eczema crónico severo de las manos con la introducción del tratamiento con alitretinoína oral. La información clínica se ha obtenido de dos ensayos clínicos. La estimación de los recursos se ha obtenido en un cuestionario aplicado a un grupo de expertos. La información de los costes asociados a incapacidades ha sido proporcionada por dos mutuas en España. Resultados: el coste anual del EMOP en el tratamiento actual fue estimado en 42.622,40 € por paciente. La introducción de alitretinoína oral podría evitar costes por valor de 13.660,45 € por paciente. Los costes directos representan el 2,19% y los indirectos el 97,81% del coste total de la enfermedad. La incapacidad permanente total es el factor con mayor impacto en los costes, representando un 67,57% del coste total. Conclusiones: la incapacidad es el principal elemento en los costes de pacientes con EMOP desde la perspectiva de las mutuas en España. Los costes indirectos corresponden a un 97,81% de los costes totales de la enfermedad. Una terapia efectiva para el EMOP puede reducir significativamente el número de pacientes con incapacidades y, por tanto, los costes indirectos.

Palabras Claves

Eczema de manos, costes, mutuas, enfermedad profesional, alitretinoína oral.