

ABSTRACT

This paper reviews the literature relating to the potential hazards of nail dust created during routine treatment by podiatrists. Organic dust particles produced by the process of reducing pathological nails in the podiatric setting have been tenuously associated with health complaints of the practitioner. This is despite documented cases of health problems associated with exposure to organic dust in a variety of occupations. This review outlines: the nature of the nail dust exposure; the prevalence of onychomycosis; the associated adverse medical events; and the possible flow-on effects of nail dust throughout the occupational setting. Recognition of the extent of the problem may lead to improved guidelines in workplace health and safety.

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