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## Contact irritant dermatitis of foreigner female servants working in the United Arab Emirates houses (House wife's eczema)

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**Background:** The hands are the most important sites of irritant contact dermatitis (ICD). Most occupational skin disorders are ICD resulting from repeated workplace exposure of the hands to soaps, cleansers and solvents.

Objectives: The objective of this study is to recognize the pattern of hand eczema of the house wife's in United Arab Emirates.

**Patients & Methods:** 25 foreigner female servants (FFS) workings in United Arab Emirates houses 21-26 years old; 15 of them are Indonesians, 5 Filipino and 5 Ethiopian. They presented with itchy macular erythema, hyperkeratosis or fissuring predominating over vesiculation of their hands and arms of 3 months duration. Skin biopsy followed by histopathological examination was diagnosed. The patch test is negative. The patients treated with topical corticosteroid, plastic gloves and oral antihistamines and advices the patients to avoid the more exposure and heavy work or immersion in the chemicals for long time.

Results: The clinical data and investigations showed that the 25 cases were contact irritant dermatitis of the hands and arms.

**Conclusion:** Most of the United Arab Emirates houses have more than one FFS working either in cleaning or coking. The more effected with the house wife's hand eczema are the chemical detergents exposures and contacting.

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