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Dear Dr Harley,

In regard to chemical sensitivity, I will give a brief, hopefully report about myself.

In the 1950 I had exposure to Kerosene heaters, at work, in houses, shops etc. The exposure gradually built up to worse reactions and damage to respiratory system

Certainly NOT psychological reaction as it took a long long time & many reactions before I worked out the trigger

The specialists, Drs Baker, in Macquarie ST, years later have done many tests. The day I had a scratch test for Petrochemicals was a revelation & a justification of what I'd come to believe was SO BAD for me.

Gas too - which the Ed Opt has only

2  
just come to believe. Pity they hadn't believed me in the 1980's

The trouble with each reaction I have found helps speed up reactions to many other things. It curtails social life as you must consider avoiding. Face masks are so handy. Petrochemicals appear in so many places including perfumes, cleaning stuff, exhaust fumes, foods etc. Gradually I developed reactions to heavy scented flowers etc etc. & also food sensitivities. All these lead to easy illness of respiratory system & to damage done.

I can assure you there has been no psychological reaction to anything on my part. The irritated feeling can come in respiratory system when you are not even aware that something that can trigger things off is near.

I have had trouble in hospital's!

1) Breathing (wheezing) in hospital. The next day, blokes came around to change the filters in air conditioner in hospital. My wheezing

3)

stopped!

2) Twice I. ve been in hospitals (different ones) and had trouble similarly (on verge of Pneumonia when I got out) due to the carpets in both & possibly the glues (Petrochemically based?) used to stick it down.

3) Another of the sister selected to book me & get me ready reeked of a very abrasive perfume (They contain petrochemical). She took me into a room full in paper & within minutes I was coughing violent. She found someone else to do me & I spent my waiting time wearing a face mask that I'd taken with me but not expected to use.

To go into hospital is a BIG WORRY to people with such problems. I now try for a carpet free room where I can also turn off the air conditioning.

I sent reports of the carpet reactions to all states of Australia to try to help others.

I know of a lot of people with

4)

similar problems & who have also had problems about going to, & what happens in the hospitals.

Food wise private hospitals are not the place if there are food sensitivities & this goes for private & public hospitals.

Last time I was in the people tried to accomodate to prevent problems. The cleaners always checked with me about what they were using.

A person with chemical sensitivities is in danger everytime they go into hospital of coming out sicker than when they went in.. Its something that has happened to me.

I would be happy to let Dr Baker pass on any information of my case history if needed.

With the wide use of petro-chemicals there are many others diagnosed & not diagnosed in the community & I get horrified when I

hear of people in this day & age thinking  
the M.C.S people are imagining things!

Trusting this may be of some  
use, especially for helping people  
become aware of the medical, not  
psychological effect of reactions.

The psychological part comes  
when you are ill & are frustrated that  
you couldn't prevent something being  
triggered & also finding people who  
believe how bad the problem can be

Good wishes

Yours sincerely

Megan J Cooke