

Common External Marks of Occupation or Occupational Diseases or Other Diseases (continued)

Mark or sign	Probable cause	Significance	Comment
Extremities Apart from Skin, continued			
Bursitis (excess fluid around joints).	Friction, pressure, or infection.	Bursae are potential spaces in connective tissue around joints that grow in response to functional demand. R. M. I.	Many varieties constitute occupational diseases, as in "beat elbow" in miners.
Clubbed fingers.	Congenital, or may be related to heart disease.	Various occupations lead to some bulging of finger ends from hypertrophy; cause of the relationship to silicosis and heart disease obscure.	Many other variations in shape of fingers. Toes may be clubbed.
Joint enlargement (arthritis).	Usually infection and gout.	Bony enlargement frequently called rheumatism, usually in error; ordinarily represents reaction of infection or infection products.	Some occupational diseases, such as lead poisoning, infrequently lead to bone and joint enlargement.
Varicose veins.	Hydrostatic pressure, infection among others.	May appear anywhere, but most common in lower extremities; little related to work as a cause.	Frequently associated with indolent ulcers.
Flat feet (pes planus).	May be congenital; may result from weight bearing; may be related to degeneration of senility.	A well-known common affection important to industry but little caused by it.	May be influenced for good or bad respectively by good or poor footwear.
Saber shins.	Congenital syphilis.	Forward bending and thickening of middle third of tibia.	Knobby shin bones in absence of saber deformity also suggests syphilis.
Wrist drop (wrist weakness).	Metal poisoning, usually lead or arsenic. Alcohol.	A frequent feature of lead poisoning; its counterpart is ankle drop; seen in lead poisoning when leg muscles are much used. R. M. I.	Many other muscle groups similarly may be weak in metal poisoning, and chiefly in lead poisoning.
Tremors.	Different causes for different types.	Many types involving many portions of the body from fingers to tongue. May be related to various diseases and states, including fear, goiter, Parkinson's disease, lead poisoning, etc. R. M. I.	Some tremors cease on the accomplishment of an intention; thus a marked tremor may exist in reaching for a book and cease when the book is picked up.
Dead fingers, white fingers.	Cold associated with vibration.	This condition is akin to several others involving capillary blood supply to fingers. Some conditions are related to cold or vibration, such as Buerger's disease. R. M. I.	Has occurred among marble cutters working with vibrating tools in cold weather. In pulad sheds, persists for months.
Writer's cramp.	At times, a neurosis; at times caused by local fatigue.	When apart from neurotic influence, writer's cramp constitutes a good example of localized fatigue; ordinarily involves those fingers and those muscles employed in any particular form of writing. R. M. I.	Cramplike pains may occur. Actual site of damage not in fingers but in arm.
Stereo movements.	Habit; continuation of work movements after work.	In some occupations requiring highly repetitive small motions, these motions are continued long after work hours. No disability, but some significance related to monotony effects, etc.	Well presented years ago in famous comic motion picture.
Baseball finger.	Blow by baseball on end or palmar surface of finger.	Somewhat characteristic swelling and deformity, usually limited to one joint of one or more fingers.	Common among industrial workers and fairly common basis of claims for compensation.
Dupuytren's contraction.	Shortening of the palmar fascia.	Permanent flexion of little and ring fingers (at times all fingers) with rigidity of palmar tissue. May be caused by infection, may result from oft-repeated severe pressure on palm. Said to be common among upholsterers.	Rare before middle age. Associated with arthritis.
Trigger finger (snap finger).	Injury to fingers in or out of industry.	Difficulty in extending fingers, but after great effort fingers fly out like jackknife blade.	A corresponding condition may exist in toes.
Sclerodactylia (deformed, pigmented fingers).	Unknown, but probably unrelated to work.	One, and usually more, fingers of both hands become withered, shortened, deformed, nodular, waxy-white, and at times brown or black pigmented. R. M. I.	Much worse in cold weather.

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