

## Book Reviews

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*Beryllium Toxicity* (Case Study 19 in Environmental Medicine), US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Services, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, 1600 Clifton Rd., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30333, 20 pp., July 1992, no charge.

Beryllium, element no. 4, MW 9.012, is a metal from the mineral beryl, and produces alloys that are extremely elastic, hence its role in making gears, springs, and non-sparking tools. The environmental alert notes that beryllium produces a range of health effects from sensitization without evidence of disease to clinically apparent pulmonary disease. Chronic beryllium disease may be misdiagnosed as sarcoidosis. New immunologic tests promise early detection of beryllium disease and differentiation from other interstitial lung diseases.

This booklet begins with a case study of a 14-year-old daughter of a dental laboratory technician, who may be at risk of exposure to beryllium (casting and grinding alloys used in dental prostheses), as well as to mercury (mixing dental amalgams). Workers casting or grinding beryllium can expose members of their households to beryllium dust brought home on workers' hair, skin, and clothes. Household members have developed chronic beryllium disease.

Chronic beryllium disease manifests itself almost solely in the lungs. If beryllium becomes embedded in skin, ulceration and poor wound healing can ensue.

An extensive suggested reading list, along with other references, is given, as well as standards and regulations for beryllium. Beryllium has been designated a hazardous air pollutant under the Clean Air Act, and EPA advisory for beryllium in water is less than 68 ng per liter (ng/l) for consumption of 2 l of ambient water.

This booklet will be most useful for the primary care provider's knowledge of the subject, and will be of interest to industrial hygiene and chemical safety personnel. It is available at no cost from the address in Atlanta given above.

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*Proceedings of the Nineteenth Annual RREL Hazardous Waste Research Symposium*, EPA/600/R-93/040, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC., 1993, 255 pp. (no price given).

The U.S. EPA's Nineteenth Annual Risk Reduction Engineering Laboratory Hazardous Waste Research Symposium was held in Cincinnati, Ohio in April,