



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS

F O U N D A T I O N

Abstract of Study Funded by the Joint Grant Awards Program in 2009

Epidemiology and Management of Poison Ivy in Primary Care (G0906)

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Abstract

Little is known about patients who present to primary care clinicians with Rhus dermatitis or the extent and severity of their symptoms. Still less is known about how to treat it. This is an example of a very common condition, which has been understudied, probably because it is self-limited and non-life threatening, but which causes considerable discomfort for millions of people every year. Our preliminary investigation suggests that primary care clinicians are currently using a wide range of treatments based upon their clinical experience. We propose to conduct a longitudinal cohort study of approximately 400 consenting patients seen by primary care clinicians in Oklahoma (members of the Oklahoma Physicians Resource/Research Network) to learn more about the patients, their patterns of illness, and the effectiveness of various forms of treatment of this common condition. While the study will not provide definitive effectiveness information, it may be good enough to inform future randomized controlled trials.