

Allergic contact dermatitis due to aceclofenac

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Case Report

A 71-year-old-man, with a previous history of stroke treated with aspirin, developed acute eczema after local application of Airtal Difucrem® in 8 days. The patient denied sun exposure. He had never used topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID). Cream application was

Table 1. Results of patch testing

Allergens	% and vehicle	Patch test D2	Patch test D4
GEIDC standard series		—	—
NSAIDs series		—	—
Diclofenac	5% pet.	+	+
Airtal Difucem®		++	++
Aceclofenac	5% pet.	++	++

stopped, and topical corticosteroid cream was started, leading to resolution of lesions in a few days.

He was patch tested with the GEIDC standard series (available at www.aedv.es/red.asp), NSAIDs series (etofenamate 1%, flurbiprofen 1%, diclofenac 5%, fenilbutazone 1%, ibuprofen 5%, naproxen 5%, bufenamac 5%, salicylic acid 5%, paracetamol 10%, indomethacin 10%, piketoprofen 2.5%, fepradinol 1%, flufenamic 2%, ketoprofen 2.5%, piroxicam 1%, benzydamine 1%, all pet.; Laboratory Ifidesa-Aristegui®, Bilbao, Spain), Airtal Difucem® (contains aceclofenac 1.5%) and aceclofenac 5% (provided by Almirall Prodesfarma Laboratory, Barcelona, Spain) with readings at D2 and D4. Results are shown in Table 1. Aceclofenac 5% was patch tested in 24 healthy volunteers, with negative results.

Discussion

Aceclofenac {[2-(2',6'-dichlorophenylamino)phenyl]acetoxyacetic acid} is a NSAID and analgesic drug of phenylacetic acid group with better gastric tolerance than diclofenac, its active metabolite (1). In Spain, aceclofenac and diclofenac are widely used as oral, topical and parenteral preparations. Despite this, scant cases of allergic and photoallergic contact dermatitis due to diclofenac have been communicated (2, 3). Only one case of photoallergic contact dermatitis from aceclofenac has been reported to date (4). In our case, photopatch testing was not performed, because the patient denied sun exposure.

To our knowledge, this is the first report of allergic contact dermatitis from topical aceclofenac. We found cross reactivity between aceclofenac and diclofenac. In this case, 5% pet. is an appropriate concentration capable of detecting sensitization to aceclofenac.

Metabolism of aceclofenac in humans.

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