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Thimerosal: An allergen for patch testing

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**Thimerosal: an allergen for patch testing**

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Conflict of interest statement

We have no conflicts of interest connected with this work.

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*Dear Editor,*

I would like to point out an error in the article by Geier et al.[1] in the Introduction section, the authors state that “Thimerosal ...has been used as ...topical medications and tincture of Merthiolate (pharmaceutical preparations); and antitoxins, immune globulin preparations, skin-prick test antigens, and vaccines (biological products).” [1]. Instead, the last two lines on this paragraph on page 213 should have read, "Thimerosal ...has been used as ...topical medications ...and tincture of Merthiolate (pharmaceutical preparations); and antitoxins, immune globulin preparations, skin-patch tests, and vaccines". Thimerosal (Merthiolate) should not be used by prick test in humans. Conversely, organic mercury compound Thimerosal (or Merthiolate) is one of the most important allergen [2], dispersed in petrolatum, adopted worldwide on standard patch test series.

**REFERENCES**

- [1] Geier DA, King PG, Hooker BS, et al. Thimerosal: clinical, epidemiologic and biochemical studies. Clin Chim Acta 2015; 444:212-220.
- [2] Lachapelle J-M, Maibach HI, Patch testing and prick testing : a practical guide. New York: Springer, 2003.