

Short Communication

Occupational nickel dermatitis in fritter making

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Case Report

A 19-year-old non-atopic man reported itchy scaly erythema on the medial side of the right forearm, with vesicular lesions, that had first appeared over a year earlier. 3 months later, he developed similar lesions on the lateral side of the ring finger of the left hand that spread to the adjacent fingers. The lesions persisted until he presented.

He made *churros*, long fritters popular in Spain, with flour and hot water. He used a stainless-steel machine with 4 cranks, which turned to make the size and shape of *churros*, and which he held down with his right forearm while taking the *churros* with his right hand.

2 months after the onset of lesions on the forearm, he developed similar lesions periumbilically and on the right thigh that coincided, respectively, with a clasp and the pocket of his trousers where he kept a corkscrew. He denied having hand dermatitis before the onset of his occupational symptoms, nor previous sensitivity to metals.

Patch tests with the Spanish standard series were positive (++) only to nickel sulfate 5% pet. at 2 and 4 days. The dimethylglyoxime (DMG) test, which was performed at his workplace, showed a weak positive reaction on the stainless-steel machine.

Comment

There are few previous reports of primarily occupational nickel dermatitis (1–3). Sensitization in this case was probably facilitated by heat and sweat. Recently, Shah et al. (4) have suggested that the rôle of nickel as an occupational allergen is underestimated. *Churros*-making has previously been reported as a cause of occupational heat contact urticaria (5).

References

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