

Contact dermatitis from 4-isopropyl-amino-diphenylamine

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Recently we saw a 41-year-old female worker suffering from an allergic hand eczema from the rubber chemical 4-isopropyl-amino-diphenylamine (N-isopropyl-N-paraphenylenediamine, 4010 NA, IPPD). The patch test with 4010 NA 0.5 % in petrolatum was strongly positive. The woman's work was fixing metallic caps on the ends of car braking tubes. These rubber tubes contain 4010 NA at a concentration of 1 %. It is well known that the concentration of this antioxidant increases on the surface of the tube during the process of ageing.

The allergic sensitivity was so strong, that even a short contact caused a relapse of her hand eczema when she brought some braking tubes from the hospital to our patch-test laboratory.

References

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Connubial contact dermatitis to benzoyl peroxide

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A 30-year-old white male physician presented with a pruritic erythematous eruption which was well localized to the right side of the neck and to the right anterior axillary fold. There was no history of any topical agents applied exclusively to these areas. However, the patient did mention that he had recently given his wife a preparation containing 5 % benzoyl peroxide for mild acne of her back. Patch testing with the preparation was strongly positive. Patch testing with 1 % benzoyl peroxide in petrolatum was also positive with erythema, induration and vesicle formation.

The patient slept on the left side of the marriage bed. The right side of his neck and the interior axillary fold on the right were thus in contact with the bedclothing, which could be contaminated by substances applied to the wife.

The anti-acne preparation was applied to the wife's back just prior to retiring. Presumably enough benzoyl peroxide rubbed off on to the pillowcases and sheets to induce an eruption in the patient. Since his wife discontinued using the preparation, he has had no further trouble.

On discussing possible cross-sensitivities, the patient remembered a previous eruption related to the use of Quinolor® ointment some years previously.

As Wilkinson reminds us, in the investigation of contact dermatitis, do not neglect the spouse.

Reference

- Wilkinson, D. S. (1975) Connubial photodermatitis. *Contact Dermatitis* 1, 58.

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