

## Letter to the Editor

### Occupational hazards in diagnosing pigmented lesions: nickel release from hand-held tools

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Dear Sir,

Excessive nickel release from metallic consumer items has been successfully regulated in EU member states to limit nickel allergy and dermatitis. The dimethylglyoxime spot test becomes positive, as indicated by pink colouration of a white cotton stick, when  $0.5 \mu\text{g nickel}/\text{cm}^2/\text{week}$  is released from a nickel-containing item. Notably, the same nickel concentration causes nickel dermatitis in nickel-allergic individuals, and it has therefore been used to define the regulatory limit in the EU Nickel Directive. We here show that nickel is released from the button of a FotoFinder<sup>®</sup> dermoscope (Fig. 1) and from a ring on a traditional Heine<sup>®</sup> dermoscope as indicated by positive dimethylglyoxime test reactions (Fig. 2). Dermatologists who use these items repeatedly or for a prolonged time are therefore potentially at risk of developing nickel allergy and dermatitis. Enamel coating can possibly be used to prevent nickel release from these metallic parts. However,



**Fig. 1.** Nickel release from the button of a Fotofinder<sup>®</sup> dermoscope as indicated by positive dimethylglyoxime test reaction.



**Fig. 2.** Nickel release from Heine dermoscope as indicated by positive dimethylglyoxime test reaction.

we mainly propose that nickel-free parts should be utilized in such devices to prevent an unnecessary risk of dermatological disease in those who use them.

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