

Short Communication

Allergic contact dermatitis from dibutyl phthalate and benzalkonium chloride in Timodine® cream

M. M. U. CHOWDHURY AND B. N. STATHAM*

Departments of Dermatology, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff CF14 4XW and

*Singleton Hospital, Swansea SA2 8QA, UK

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Case Report

A 65-year-old man presented with an acute erythematous rash in his groins and ano-genital region after using Timodine® cream (Reckitt and Coleman) for itching in the peri-anal area. There was no personal or family history of atopy. There was no occupational history of note.

Patch testing, using Finn Chambers®, was performed with the European standard and medicament series (Chemotechnique) and Timodine cream and its constituents. Positive reactions were seen at D4 to dibutyl phthalate 5% pet. (+ +), Timodine® cream (+ +), benzalkonium chloride 0.1% aq. (+), Myroxylon Pereirae resin (balsam of Peru) (+ +) and fragrance mix (+ +).

Comment

Our patient was allergic to 2 components of Timodine cream, dibutyl phthalate and benzalkonium chloride. Dibutyl phthalate is a plasticizer for synthetic resins and nail lacquer (1). Allergic contact dermatitis from dibutyl phthalate has been reported in a plastic watchstrap (2), an antiperspirant spray (3) and Timodine cream (4) previously. However, even though this allergen is widely used as an additive, dibutyl phthalate has rarely been reported as causing allergic contact dermatitis in cosmetics and topical medicaments (5). Benzalkonium chloride is an antimicrobial agent found in Timodine

and can cause allergic contact dermatitis, especially in ophthalmological solutions (6). The relevance of fragrance mix and Myroxylon Pereirae resin was not determined.

We believe this is the second report to highlight dibutyl phthalate as a rare but important cause of allergic contact dermatitis in pharmaceutical agents such as Timodine.

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Correspondence: M. M. U. Chowdhury, Departments of Dermatology, University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff CF14 4XW, UK