

**Contact allergy to
propylene glycol and
dodecyl gallate
mimicking seborrheic
dermatitis**

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Due to its function as wetting agent, surfactant and solvent, propylene glycol is a widely used ingredient in cosmetics, soaps, shampoos and even pharmaceuticals or food. Propylene glycol has well-recognized skin-moisturizing properties but may also be elicitor of contact hypersensitivity (1–4). The same is true for gallic acid esters such as propyl, octyl and dodecyl gallates, which are used as antioxidants in lip sticks and balms, cosmetic creams and lotions, oils and other pharmaceutical and industrial



Fig. 1. Contact dermatitis spreading over the patient's face.

also encompass mucosal range (e.g. tooth paste) and allergen-containing foods.

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