

Short Communication

Occupational contact allergy from beechwood

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Case Report

A 49-year-old non-atopic carpenter developed acute oedematous dermatitis on his eyelids, neck and uncovered upper chest. He had had no previous skin symptoms. On oral methylprednisolone and cetirizine treatment, his skin symptoms disappeared, but they relapsed after 1 day's occupational exposure to beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Western red cedar (*Thuja plicata*) woods. He had usually worked with domestic woods, i.e., pine, spruce and birch.

On patch testing, he showed no allergic reactions to the European standard series and antimicrobials (Chemotechnique). He was also patch tested with sawdusts of beech, Western red cedar, pine and plywood as is, moistened with saline in Finn Chambers. Patch tests to beech dust were repeatedly positive (D2+/D4+). Control patch tests with the beech dust in 14 subjects were negative. A patch test to 2,6-dimethoxy-1,4-benzoquinone 10% pet. (an allergen in more than 50 different species), supplied by Professor B. M. Hausen (Hamburg, Germany), was negative, as well as prick tests to common environmental allergens (Allergologisk Laboratorium), and dusts from beech, Western red cedar, pine, spruce and plywood.

Comment

Contact dermatitis from beech has only rarely been reported (1–5).

References

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