# CONTACT POINTS

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## Contact dermatitis from the essential oil of tangerine in fragrance

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**Key words:** allergic contact dermatitis; tangerine; fragrances; essential oils; cosmetics.

### Case Report

A 17-year-old girl, with a previous history of intolerance to imitation jewellery, reported that a fragrance Children of the World, which she had been using for 3 months, was causing her itching erythema and papules on areas of contact on the hands, face and neck, and elsewhere. Initial patch tests with the TRUE Test standard series, Chemotechnique fragrance series and Children of the World fragrance, were positive only to nickel (++D2, ++D4) and the fragrance itself at 10% pet. (++D2, ++D4) and 5% pet. (+D2, +D4).

We contacted with the manufacturer of the product and, once the Chemotechnique fragrance series had been reviewed by the chemists of the company, they gave us 10 essential oils numbered from 1 to 10 on the basis that they were in Children of the World but not in our series. These 10 essential oils were dispersed at 2% and 10% pet., using sorbitan sesquiolate as emulsifier.

We patch tested our patient with these 10 substances and we found a strong positivity to no. 6 at D2 and D4, 50 controls being negative. On contacting the manufacturer again, we were informed that this no. 6 was the essential oil of tangerine, the other substances remaining a professional secret. Conscious that our help was very limited, we could only tell our patient not to use perfumes that contained essential oil of tangerine.

### Discussion

Contact dermatitis due to fragrance is very frequent and has been extensively reviewed (1, 2).

Nowadays, we use the fragrances mix (FM) to detect sensitization to perfumes (3), besides which there are specific series that have been developed in recent years (4), while new allergens have been appearing such as ylang-ylang oil (5), sandalwood oil (6), and Lyral (7, 8). We also recognize menthol and eucalyptol (9) and think that new substances should continue to be added.

We think that this is the 1st case of contact dermatitis from tangerine oil and that we may see more cases in the future. The manufacturer told us only which essential oil had been positive on patch testing. This limited cooperation is common in Spain. While we understand the complexity of fragrance development, we deplore the excessive confidentiality of manufacturers when patients' welfare is at stake. The time has surely come for all fragrances to be provided with qualitative formulation details.

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