

On-line internet facilities for contact allergy software: CDESK/PRO

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Key words: allergic contact dermatitis; computer; internet; PC.

The PC contact allergy software developed at the Department of Dermatology (Contact Allergy Unit) of the K.U. Leuven is used by many dermatologists, both nationally and internationally (1).

At the end of 1999, the development cycle was completed and the website <http://www.cdagdir.be> soon became operational: the users, subscribing to e-news, receive an E-mail: when new versions are available they can then download the new software and databases. This system works well but is probably not the best solution for every user.

After a feasibility study, we decided to develop new software offering on-line access facilities on the internet: cdesk/pro. The user (with login-id and password) can access on-line most of the cdagdir functions via the <http://www.cdeskpro.be> site. As a state-of-the-art application, cdesk/pro can be considered as an application service provider (ASP). There is no need to install or download the contact allergy software, but the applications are available on-line. While the cdagdir software was Windows (Microsoft) only, the internet facilities are platform-independent and also available to Apple/Mac users. By the use of dhtml, the only requirement that the user needs is a recent browser (p.e. Netscape 4.7, MSIE 5.0 or

better). Users working in different locations or performing patch testing on an infrequent basis will also benefit from this easy solution. This new service starts in 2003. Interested dermatologists can subscribe now (e-mail: godelieve.janssens@uz.kuleuven.ac.be).

Reference

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Contact urticaria from runner bean (*Phaseolus coccineus*)

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Key words: contact urticaria; *Phaseolus coccineus*; plants; runner bean.

Case Report

An 84-year-old man presented with a 2-year history of swelling of the face, anterior neck, dorsum of hands and arms. The eruption would always arise a few minutes after he had been tending runner bean plants in his garden. He was retired and coveted growing and picking his scarlet runner beans. He did not grow any other vegetables. He was not atopic and had no other skin complaints.

He was patch tested to the standard series, preservatives, plant series, his own runner bean, runner

bean leaf, runner bean stalk and runner bean flower. At day 4, he developed a positive reaction (+) to diallyl disulfide. He also developed an irritant reaction to runner bean leaf. Photopatch testing to the plant series and runner bean constituents did not reveal any positive reactions. Prick testing to the constituents of his runner bean demonstrated a 5-mm wheal-and-flare response to the runner bean, runner bean leaf and the runner bean stalk. Prick testing with these same constituents of the runner bean plant was negative in 6 normal individuals.

Discussion

The runner bean is a tender perennial, and is grown as a hardy annual. Its leaf hairs are recognized as a mechanical irritant. It is one of the most commonly home-grown vegetables in the UK. Despite this, there has only been 1 previously reported case of contact urticaria from the runner bean *Phaseolus multiflorus* (1), and 1 reported case of contact urticaria from the botanically related winged bean *Psophocarpus tetragonolobus* (2).

References

1. Marshman G, Lovell C R. Contact urticaria from runner bean (*Phaseolus multiflorus*). *Contact Dermatitis* 1991; 24: 76.
2. Lovell C R, Rycroft R J G. Contact urticaria from winged bean (*Psophocarpus tetragonolobus*). *Contact Dermatitis* 1984; 10: 314–315.

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