

Short Communications

Metal polisher as a putative cause of allergic contact dermatitis from ethylenediamine

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A 44-year-old man with a several-month history of hand eczema was patch tested with an extended standard series. The only reaction (D 4) was a +++ to ethylenediamine. He did not recall using Mycolog cream. Examination of his material safety data sheets (MSDS), and discussion with the suppliers, revealed that a widely-used metal polisher contained more than 1% ethylenediamine as a solvent. The supplier's chemist verified that it was ethylenediamine, and not ethylenediamine tetra-acetate (EDTA). Patch testing of this brass cleaner at 0.1 and 1.0% elicited minimal erythema. He improved after discontinuing use of the brass polisher, which appears to be another source of ethylenediamine exposure. However, we cannot yet be sure that it was clinically relevant. The literature (1–5) did not identify metal polishers as a source of ethylenediamine exposure.

References

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