

Letter to the Editor

Para-phenylenediamine (PPD) 1% pet. is an important allergen in the standard series

Dear Sir,

Patch testing is a well established and valuable method of diagnosing allergic contact dermatitis and allergic delayed type reactions. The first patch tests according to present principles were carried out by the German dermatologist Jadassohn in 1895 (1). During the last decades much effort has been put into the standardization of allergens, vehicles, concentrations, patch test materials, tapes and the scoring of test reactions, such that the method is today considered accurate and reliable (2). The European standard series is based on the experiences of international experts of the European Contact Dermatitis Society (ESCD), the European Environmental Contact Dermatitis Research Group (EECDRG) and the International Contact Dermatitis Research Group (ICDRG), and is accepted as a well established, important and safe instrument for screening delayed type sensitizations and allergies. The series is evaluated regularly by national and international contact dermatitis groups (3).

The executive committee of the European Contact Dermatitis Society is concerned about the decision of the German Contact Group to discontinue 1% PPD pet. as part of the 'European' standard series without publishing data or even discussing the reasons with international experts within a European forum. The ESCD has national representatives of every European country which has at least 5 members in the society who are active in the field of contact dermatitis and this includes Germany. We highly welcome any scientific discussion to stimulate research in the field of contact dermatitis, particularly where the aim is to diagnose and treat patients in the best possible way. Consequently, until new valid scientific data are forthcoming which provide a sound basis for change, it is our opinion that PPD 1% pet., which is the key diagnostic tool for one of the more important causes of allergic contact dermatitis, must remain in the European standard series.

Yours sincerely,

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