

References

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Allergic contact dermatitis from thiuram in a veterinary medication

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A 41-year-old housewife developed an acute exudative dermatitis on her right forearm, left upper arm and left side of neck. The cause of the eruption was not discovered, but it settled quickly with topical corticosteroids. 6 months later, she had a further episode with a very similar distribution. Her general practitioner prescribed a course of oral prednisolone and referred her for investigation.

Patch testing was performed with the European Standard series, a textile series and articles of her own clothing. The only positive was a ++ reaction to thiuram mix (tetraethylthiuram disulfide 0.25%, tetramethylthiuram disulfide 0.25%, tetramethylthiuram monosulfide 0.25%, dipentamethylenethiuram disulfide 0.25%; in pet.).

Further enquiry revealed that she had treated her 2 Schnauzer dogs with a proprietary ear mite treatment (Oterna, Pitman Moore) before both episodes of dermatitis. When applying the drops, she had held the dog's head between her arms and neck, causing some smearing of the medication onto her skin. This product contains 5% monosulfiram (tetraethylthiuram monosul-

fide), as well as betamethasone and neomycin. An open test of the ear drops on her forearm produced a marked spreading dermatitis, while testing with betamethasone was negative. It was concluded that she had suffered an allergic contact dermatitis from exposure to thiuram in the ear mite preparation.

Although thiurams are widely used as biocides and insecticides, there have been few reports of allergic reactions following such exposure. A golfer who developed an allergic reaction to thiuram used as a fungicide on a golf course has been reported (1). Monosulfiram in a medicated soap caused an allergic contact dermatitis in a patient previously sensitized to thiuram in rubber (2).

References

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