

Response to: Positive reactions to gold sodium thiosulfate in patch test panels (TRUE Test) in Japan: A multicentre study

We read with interest the manuscript presenting retrospective data comparing hydrogel and petrolatum preparations of gold sodium thiosulfate (GST) in a large multicentre Japanese cohort: "Positive reactions to gold sodium thiosulfate in patch test panels (TRUE Test) in Japan: A multicentre study".¹ However, we have concerns about the interpretation and conclusions regarding these data and cases.

We disagree with the authors' conclusions about active sensitization. They cite the classic definition that patch test active sensitization is a negative patch test reaction followed by a flare-up after 10 to 20 days, and then a positive reaction after 3 days at retesting.² However, it is no simple report that GST may be an exception; it is stated in the definition of active sensitization itself.² A delayed reaction pattern is seen in patients who are known to be GST-allergic³; thus, the same definition of active sensitization cannot possibly be applied to GST. A late reaction to GST is a positive reaction to GST,² not a "negative reaction followed by a flare" as the authors report. As with any allergen, the booster effect may accelerate the timing of patch test reactions when patch testing is repeated.

It is unfortunate that there is no clear definition of active sensitization to GST at this time. However, showing active sensitization to GST clearly will require much more evidence than for normal allergens, which, in our opinion, has not been provided in these cases.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

D. Hamann is a first-degree relative of C. Hamann, who is CEO and owner of SmartPractice (Phoenix, Arizona), a company that produces and sells patch test materials. J. F. Fowler and K. E. Andersen are consultants for SmartPractice.

ORCID

Dathan Hamann  <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2052-3725>

Klaus E. Andersen  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6181-824X>

Magnus Bruze  <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2919-3227>

Dathan Hamann¹ 

Curt Hamann¹

Joseph F. Fowler Jr²

Klaus E. Andersen³ 

Magnus Bruze⁴ 

¹Contact Dermatitis Institute, Phoenix, Arizona

²Division of Dermatology, University of Louisville School of Medicine, Louisville, Kentucky

³Department of Dermatology and Allergy Centre, Odense University Hospital, and Dermatological Investigations Scandinavia, Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark

⁴Department of Occupational and Environmental Dermatology, Lund University, Skåne University Hospital, Malmö, Sweden

Correspondence

Dr Dathan Hamann, Contact Dermatitis Institute, 3400 E. McDowell Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85008.

Email: dathanhamann@gmail.com

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