

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Di-isostearyl malate and macademia nut oil in lipstick caused cheilitis

Editor

Di-isostearyl malate and macademia nut oil are known ingredients of cosmetic agents. Di-isostearyl malate is composed of isostearyl alcohol and malaic acid. Isostearyl alcohol has branched C18 aliphatic compounds, and this agent caused lipstick dermatitis.¹ Teuber² reported that tree nut and peanut oil may be a threat for patients with allergies depending on the method of manufacturing and processing.

A 28-year-old woman had presented cheilitis after using a lipstick (Fig. 1). The patient had no history of any drug or cosmetic allergies. We performed patch tests using the ingredients of the lipstick; checking for contact dermatitis. The patient had positive reactions to di-isostearyl malate and macademia nut oil (Fig. 2). Because the agents of highest concentration in the lipstick were di-isostearyl malate and macademia nut oil, it was recommended that the patient use another lipstick without these agents. The patient improved by using a steroid ointment.

There were some reports about contact dermatitis on the lips.^{3–5} Previously, Jere⁶ and Sugiura⁷ reported cheilitis due to di-isostearyl malate in the lipstick. This was a rare case of allergic contact cheilitis due to both di-isostearyl malate and macademia nut oil. Generally, di-isostearyl malate is commonly used in lipstick and in about 10% of lip glosses. Hayakawa¹ reported that di-isostearyl alcohol in the di-isostearyl malate contained C18 aliphatic compounds and caused cheilitis. Macademia nut oil is a vegetable oil from macademia nuts and includes oleic acid and squalane. This oil is often used for lipstick, conditioner and other cosmetic products. Cheilitis from macademia nut oil has never been reported to our knowledge.



Figure 1 Clinical appearance of cheilitis.

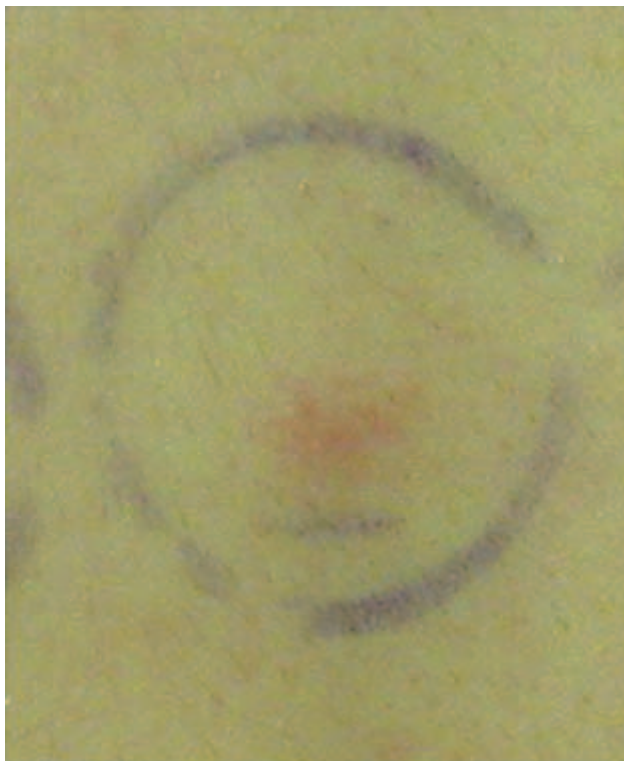


Figure 2 Positive reactions.

K Sugiura,* M Sugiura

Department of Environmental Dermatology and Allergology, Daiichi Clinic, Nagoya, Japan

*Correspondence: K Sugiura. E-mail: ksugiura@daiichiclinic.jp

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