

## Allergic contact dermatitis from an aminobenzoic acid compound used in sunscreens

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Contralum® cream is a broad spectrum UV absorber, which is used by patients suffering from chronic polymorphic light eruption. It has been investigated by Verhagen (1964) who summarized the results of treatment with this cream as good or very good.

A 36-year-old male patient suffering from chronic polymorphic light eruption was patch tested because a severe dermatitis of his face developed after applying Contralum for 3 days. In previous years he had used this ointment without any complication. The test with Contralum was strongly positive (+++). Other ICDRG series (standard, plastics and glues, dyes) did not show any positive reaction.

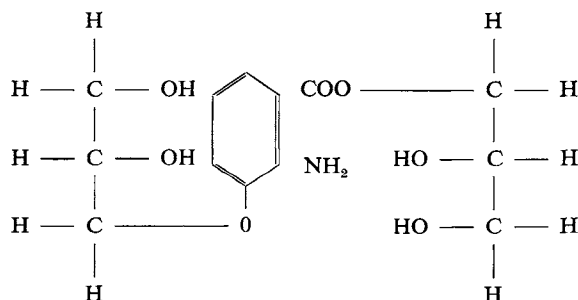
Contralum is a cream which contains 10 % of the alpha-glycerol ester of ortho-amino-meta-(2,3 dihydroxypropoxy) benzoic acid which is the UVA filter. The UVB filter in this cream

is 8 % 2,2-dihydroxy-4,4-dimethoxybenzophenone.

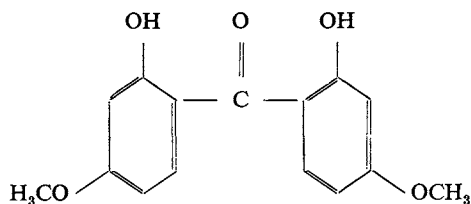
Patch tests with 5 % and 10 % of both compounds in pet. showed clear positive reactions to the aminobenzoic acid compound. The reactions with the benzophenone compounds were negative. Patch test reactions with p.aminobenzoic acid, benzocaine and iso-butyl-p-aminobenzoate were negative. The compounds are used in other sunscreen creams, although in many countries ethylaminobenzoate (benzocaine) in sunscreens is not permitted.

### Reference

Verhagen, A. (1964) Contralum and the pathogenetic wave-lengths in chronic polymorphous light dermatoses. *Dermatologica* 129, 292-303.



alpha-glycerol ester of orthoaminometa-(2,3 dihydroxypropoxy) benzoic acid (UVA filter)



2,2'-dihydroxy-4,4'-dimethoxybenzophenone (UVB-filter)