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Key words: Castor oil; cerumenolytic; contact dermatitis.

The castor oil plant (*Ricinus communis*) belongs to the Euphorbiaceae family. Its seed is the source of castor oil, which has a wide variety of uses. It has been used since 2000 BC in lamps and in medicine as a laxative.

Occupational allergic respiratory symptoms induced by castor bean pollen (1) and allergic contact dermatitis to castor oil have been rarely reported (2–7).

Case report

A 47-year-old woman developed marked facial swelling and urticated lesions on her neck several hours after Otocerum® application in her left ear, used as a cerumenolytic. Previously, she had used this product without any problem. The angio-oedema-like swelling required systemic treatment and subsided without desquamation.

Skin prick test with Otocerum® was performed with a negative result. A 2D closed patch test with Otocerum® and its ingredients (castor oil, benzocaine, turpentine oil, and phenol 5% pet.) in Finn Chambers® on Scanpor® tape was undertaken. Readings were obtained according to the ICDRG recommendations on D2, 3, and 4. Patch test with chlorobutanol was not performed because the substance was not available. She showed a positive reaction to Otocerum® patch test (Fig. 1). A total of 20 controls were negative to it. The patient showed a

Angioedema-like allergic contact dermatitis to castor oil

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Fig. 1. Patch test with OTOCERUM®.

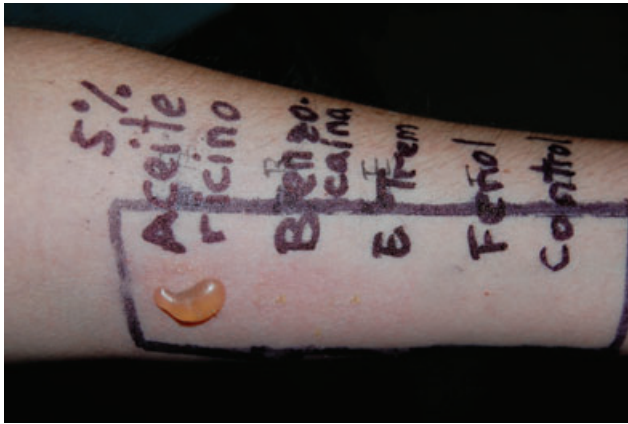


Fig. 2. Patch test with OTOCERUM® ingredients. Castor oil (“aceite de ricino”), benzocaine (“benzocaína”), turpentine oil (“E. trem”) and phenol (“fenol”).

positive patch test to castor oil (5% pet.) and was negative to benzocaine, turpentine oil, and phenol 5% pet. (Fig. 2).

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Discussion

Otocerum® is a widely used medication. We report an unusual case of allergic contact dermatitis presenting as an angio-oedematous/urticarial eruption caused by castor oil.

References

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