

Short Communications

Positive patch test with Kamilloosan[®] in a patient with hypersensitivity to camomile

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A 68-year-old teacher had used for many years, nearly every day, a cosmetic hand cream containing camomile and glycerol, and drank periodically a camomile tea. One day, feeling poorly, she prepared herself an exceptionally strong tea with 3 camomile bags. That same evening, oedema and erythema developed in the periorbital regions, and she had slight nausea. On the following day, the skin changes became somewhat worse and she consulted an eye specialist, but the treatment that he prescribed failed to effect improvement. The lesions steadily became still worse. After 2 days, she presented to a dermatologist, who prescribed hydrocortisone 200 mg intravenously and clobetasol propionate topically. Improvement occurred very rapidly.

3 months later, the patient was patch tested with a standard series and additionally with Kamilloosan[®] (camomile extracts) solution (ASTA Medica, Dresden),

according to the manufacturer's instructions, 5 ml in 1 litre distilled water. After 2 and 4 days, this additional patch test was positive.

This case is a rare one, because Kamilloosan[®] solution has been used by us for testing 830 consecutive patients with dermatitis and the above patient was the only positive (results in 540 consecutive patients have been reported (1) elsewhere), and we have failed to find any previous reports of contact dermatitis with a positive patch test to Kamilloosan[®].

References

1. Jabłońska S, Rudzki E. Kamilloosan Koncentrat: ein nicht allergisierender Extrakt aus Kamille. *Haut und Geschlechtskrankheiten* 1996; 71: 542–545.