

## Short Communication

### The so-called contact dermatoses

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A number of different skin conditions have been prefixed by 'contact' (1–8), and are briefly reviewed here.

'Contact pemphigus' has been proposed by Brenner (6). With Wolf and Ruocco, she concluded that 'genetic predisposition alone (the soil) is certainly essential, though not per se sufficient for an outbreak of pemphigus; the intervention of exogenous heterogeneous factors (the seed) often seems decisive in triggering and activating the full-blown disease' (6). Although these authors concur that contact allergens are among such trigger factors, no proper patch testing has been performed in the reported cases.

Contact granuloma annulare has been described from allergy to nickel in a necklace (2) and corticosteroid powders (8), and hypertrophic allergic contact dermatitis from hair dye (7), with a nodular clinical appearance.

Contact mycosis fungoides has been raised as a possibility in a case of contact allergy to nickel in a metal chain (3), and contact bullous pemphigoid from sensitization to benzyl benzoate (4). Pemphigus from basic chromium sulfate was reported in 1990 (5), and more recently in the mouth from allergy to nickel in a dental filling (9).

Contact vitiligo is caused by toxicity to melanogenesis. Cases from para-tertiary-butylphenol can be associated with contact allergy (10).

Perhaps a greater awareness of such possibilities may increase the number of cases identified in the future.

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