

CONTACT POINTS

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Allergic contact dermatitis to idebenone in an over-the-counter anti-ageing cream

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Case Report

A 43-year-old Caucasian woman applied Prevenge anti-ageing cream (Elizabeth Arden, London, UK) to the face and neck. Within 2 days, she had developed an itchy rash on the sites where she had applied the cream. This resolved within 5 days with the use of a topical steroid.

She was patch tested to the British Contact Dermatitis Society Standard and a Facial and Cosmetic series together with her own cosmetics. Allergens supplied by Trolab and Crawfords were placed in Finn Chambers and applied to the back using Scanpor tape. Patch testing showed a 2+ reaction to her Prevenge anti-ageing cream at D2 and D4 together with a 2+ reaction to nickel.

The manufacturers kindly provided the individual ingredients of the Prevenge anti-ageing cream premixed in petroleum at the concentrations used in the final product. Subsequent patch testing showed a 2+ reaction to 0.5% idebenone at D2 and D4.

Discussion

Idebenone is a potent antioxidant, which may reduce free radicals within the skin (1). It has been reported to improve the appearance of photo-damaged skin in a non-placebo controlled study (2). There has been only 1 previous report of an allergy to ide-

benone (3). In this case, the allergen was present in a facial treatment applied at a Beauty salon. This is the 1st reported case of idebenone allergy in an over-the-counter cream. In view of the huge public interest in anti-ageing products, we may expect to see an increase in idebenone allergy in the future.

References

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