

The secret sensitizer gets out of the bag

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Peristomal cutaneous findings can be challenging, owing to the unique environment and local applications of medicaments and dressings. We report an interesting case of allergic contact dermatitis caused by fragrance applied by the patient into the stoma bag that penetrated through it and onto the skin. Stoma appliances comprise a hydrocolloid adhesive ring for attachment to the skin and a polythene collecting bag.

CASE REPORT

An 82-year-old male attended with a 2-month history of pruritus and well-defined erythematous rash under his stoma bag. He had a long-term ileostomy secondary to underlying Crohn's disease. He regularly used wet wipes and sprayed citrus-scented deodorizer inside the stoma bag.

On examination, the stoma and immediate surrounding skin were healthy. However, inferior to the stoma, there was an area of well-demarcated uniform erythema. This spared the abdominal skin fold, as shown in Figure 1. The patient was patch tested with the hospital baseline series, a stoma series, an acrylate adhesive series, the

individual constituents of fragrance mixes I and II, hydroperoxides of limonene and linalool, butylhydroxytoluene, a textile series, a plastic adhesive series and his own topical products and medicaments, including the stoma bags. Finn Chambers with Scanpor tape were applied for 2 days, supplied by Bio-diagnostics, Worcestershire, UK. A + positive reaction on day (D) 2 to hydroperoxides of limonene was observed. On D4, additional + reactions were noted to fragrance mix I, *Myroxylon pereirae* (balsam of Peru), *Evernia prunastri* (oak moss), and hydroperoxides of linalool. *E. prunastri* and limonene were identified as components of the patient's fragranced deodorizer, and on discontinuation of the use of this the rash resolved.

DISCUSSION

E. prunastri is among the most relevant allergens in fragrance mix I in the European baseline patch series,¹ and hydroperoxides of limonene and linalool are considered to be so important that they were recently included in the British baseline series.² Limonene and other fragrance components are known to permeate polythene.³ Indeed, citrus aroma can be detected by smell a few minutes after some



FIGURE 1 Well-demarcated erythema sparing the skin fold around an ileostomy

deodorizer drops have been placed in the stoma bag (the authors' own observations). We postulate that exposure occurred via fragrance penetrating the stoma bag to affect the skin. This highlights the importance of taking a detailed history with regard to the exact methods that patients use to apply such products.

Conflict of interest

The authors declare no potential conflict of interests.

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