

Positive patch test to the azo-dye tartrazine

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A male patient aged 32 was examined, suffering from dermatitis localized on the trunk, arms and legs.

Patch tests with the standard series, plastics and glues (I.C.D.R.G.) were negative. The yellow azo-dye tartrazine (C.I. 19140) 2 % in pet. was also tested. After 48 and 72 hours a 2+ positive reaction was seen.

Comments

These findings might be in accordance with the complaints of the patient: after wearing a yellow shirt and drinking orange juice the eruption worsened. The patch tests with a piece from the yellow shirt and the juice were negative. Perhaps the possibility of cross-reaction between tartrazine and the other positive reacting azo-dyes has to be regarded. How-

ever, a primary sensitization to the azo-dye tartrazine occurring in food and clothes may be the cause of this eruption.

Dye additives in food such as tartrazine have been examined especially in cases of urticaria (Michaelsson & Juhlin 1973). In these investigations provocation tests have been performed. However, a positive delayed-type reaction to tartrazine seems to be rare. No positive patch tests to tartrazine were seen in 50 other patients suffering from contact eczema possibly caused by dyes.

References

Michaelsson, G. & Juhlin, L. (1973). Urticaria induced by preservatives and dye additives in food and drugs. *British Journal of Dermatology* 88, 525.

	48 hours	72 hours
P-aminodiphenylamine	0.25 % pet. —	—
O-nitro-p-phenylenediamine	2 % pet. —	—
Resorcinol	2 % pet. —	—
P-toluenediamine sulfate	1 % pet. —	—
Diacetylamino-azotoluol (pellidol)	2 % pet. +++	+++
P-amino-azobenzene	0.25 % pet. +++	+++
Disperse orange	1 % pet. —	—
Disperse yellow	1 % pet. —	—

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