

100 patients positive to balsam of Peru observed in Warsaw (Poland)

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From 15 March 2003 to 31 December 2005 in 2247 consecutive patients with dermatitis (788 men and 1459 women), we observed 100 patch-tested persons (39 men and 61 women) positive to balsam of Peru (*Myroxylon pereirae* resin, MP). In all submitted to patch tests, 4.45% (4.95% men and 4.18% women) were sensitive to balsam of Peru (in 2003: all patients 4.01%, men 3.92%, and women 4.00%; in 2004: all patients 4.15%, men 5.00%, and women 3.97%; and in 2005: all patients 4.96%, men 5.39%, and women 4.73%). For comparison in 1994, the same incidence was 2.82% in all tested, 2.84% in men, and 2.81% in women, and in 1995, the incidence was 3.56% in all patients, 3.67% in men, and 3.44% in women (over the past years, there is an increase in the prevalence of the sensitization to MP). In a group of 100 patients recently positive to MP, 49 patients (51.13% men and 47.54% women) were older than 60 years and 13 persons

(10.26% men and 14.75% women) were younger than the 30 years. Among 100 patients positive to balsam, 38 were also positive to perfume mixture (38.46% men and 37.71% women), 18 to colophony (10.26% men and 22.95% women), but no one to turpentine. Positive response only to MP was found in 32 persons (13 men and 19 women).

Some data (also relevance) were not available for all 100 patients. In our other study (1) of 300 patients with stasis dermatitis (out of 1418 consecutive patients with dermatitis) 30.00% were sensitive to MP. We agree with supposition that the sensitization to balsam of Peru 'is due not only to the use of cosmetics but also of topical medicaments' (2).

References

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