

Discussion

Platinum salts have long been known to be responsible for respiratory and cutaneous hypersensitization. The term "platinosis" describes the syndrome encountered in workers exposed to this metal. Ammonium tetrachloroplatinate and ammonium hexachloroplatinate salts are the responsible haptens, as demonstrated by the passive transfer in both man and monkey and by findings of specific IgE (6–8).

Cisplatin (cis-dichlorodiamine platinum; CAS 15663-27-1) has an alkylating antineoplastic action and is given intravenously. It has useful antitumour activity in certain solid tumours, including ovarian cancer and testicular teratoma. We interpret our case as being one of immunologic contact urticaria.

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Allergic contact dermatitis from kiwi fruit vine (*Actinidia chinensis*)

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Key words: allergic contact dermatitis; kiwi fruit vine; occupational; *Actinidia chinensis*; orchardist. © Munksgaard, 1996.

Kiwi fruit (Chinese gooseberry; *Actinidia chinensis*) is a major agricultural cash crop in New Zealand. The industry employs large numbers of autumn casual workers as most harvesting is still done by hand. Full-time employment is almost solely confined to the orchardists (owners/managers). We are aware of reports of adverse reactions to kiwi fruit amongst casual workers, but their transient employment has made confirmation by patch testing difficult. Most reactions reported are consistent with an immediate contact urticaria type reaction (1). Other reports include cheilitis, pruritus, and burning tongue seen shortly after consumption of the fruit (2–4). Anecdotal reports from patients include hives, following consumption of relatively large quantities of fruit (salicylate induced?), and diarrhoea (personal observation). Over the last few years, a number of full-time kiwi fruit orchardists have been seen in the patch test clinic with hand dermatitis attributed to kiwi fruit. In most cases, the hand dermatitis has been either irritant in nature or allergic contact dermatitis from other allergens (rubber gloves, fungicides, etc.).

Case Report

A 52-year-old orchardist presented with a 2-year history of dermatitis at sites of contact with kiwi fruit vines. He

had purchased the orchard 3 years previously and was in the process of diversifying into macadamia nuts and avocados. He developed a hand and face dermatitis on each occasion that he handled kiwi fruit vines (e.g., pruning, tying, harvesting, etc.), but was able to handle the fruit itself (e.g., grading or packaging) without developing dermatitis. A number of pesticides/fungicides were used routinely in the orchard.

Patch testing to the standard series (Chemotechnique), pesticides (Trolab), preservatives, fragrances, and plants and woods series was negative at 2 and 4 days. Tests to various components of kiwi fruit and vine are shown in Table 1.

7 controls were negative, although 1 had an irritant + reaction to kiwi fruit vine inner at D2, being negative at D4. Avoidance of contact with kiwi fruit vine and

Table 1. Patch test results to kiwi fruit

Substance	D2	D4
kiwi fruit peel	–	–
kiwi fruit leaf (upper)	–	–
kiwi fruit leaf (lower)	–	–
kiwi fruit vine bark	+	++
kiwi fruit vine inner	+++	+++

further diversification of his orchard has resulted in marked improvement in his dermatosis.

Comment

Urticaria and angioedema from ingested kiwi fruit is well-recognized (2–4). The mechanism is thought to be IgE-mediated, but it may also be due to the salicylate content of the fruit. There are a handful of cases of cutaneous hypersensitivity reactions to the fruit itself (1, 5).

The subject of this report was able to handle kiwi fruit itself, which suggested that the allergen might be a pesticide/fungicide. When patch tested to these, however, they were negative. On crediting the patient with his observation that he reacted only to kiwi fruit vine, he was tested to the individual components of the plant and was shown to have delayed-type hypersensitivity to the vine

itself. It is just as well that he is diversifying into alternative cash crops.

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Allergic contact stomatitis from Aristochol[®], a phytotherapeutic cholagogue

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Key words: allergic contact stomatitis; dandelion; yellow chaste weed; yarrow; herb of celandine; wormwood; Compositae; plant extracts; herbal remedies. © Munksgaard, 1996.

Combinations of plant extracts are used in preparations to enhance gastrointestinal transit time and metabolism of bile acids (1). To our knowledge, there is no previous report of allergic contact stomatitis due to phytotherapeutics used as such cholagogues.

Case Report

A 61 year-old woman, with a previous cholecystectomy, was treated with Aristochol[®] (containing 5 plant extracts, Table 1) for 5 years. 7 years ago, she had been fitted with a denture. For 1 year, she had complained of soreness and burning of the oral mucosa and tongue. Slight erythema could be seen in the oral cavity and on the tongue. Blood count and differential were normal.

Patch tests were performed with the standard series and a denture materials series (Hermal), plus gold chloride 0.1% and 0.5% aq., silver nitrate 1% aq., mercuric chloride 0.5% pet., zinc chloride 0.5% and 1% pet., copper-sulfate 1% aq., potassium dichromate 0.1% pet., and 16 drugs, after negative scratch tests, that the patient had taken regularly or occasionally. Positive reactions were obtained to p-phenylenediamine + D2, ++ D3; fragrance mix (+) D2, + D3; and Aristochol[®] + D2, + D3. Subsequent patch tests with the plant extracts of Aristochol[®] showed positive reactions (+ D2, + D3) to

dandelion, yellow chaste weed, herb of celandine and wormwood extracts, while yarrow extract was only (+) D2, (+) D3. 5 controls were negative.

Discussion

Plants as medicines are as old as mankind. *Achillea* plants (e.g., yarrow, Table 1) featured among the medicinal plants found in the Neanderthal in a middle paleolithic grave of a Shanidar IV individual (Iraq) (2). Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) is one of the most common weeds of the Compositae family. Cases of allergic contact dermatitis have been described since 1899 (3). The allergenic compound of *Achillea millefolium* has been defined as α -peroxyachifolide (4). In our case, this was the only plant of the extract combination that showed no clearly positive result.

Patch testing with the sesquiterpene lactone mix is not a wholly reliable marker for Compositae allergy (5, 6). Therefore, supplementary testing for sesquiterpene lactone mix as well as for Compositae plants is 'state of the art' (6, 7) and would have been done in our patient if it had not been made impossible for personal reasons. Recently, environmental pollution was studied in relation to the concentrations of Pb, Zn and Cu in dandelion

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