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Allergic contact dermatitis due to diclofenac and indomethacin

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Key words: diclofenac; indomethacin; allergic contact dermatitis; medicaments; eyedrops; ophthalmics; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; multiple sensitization; lack of cross-sensitivity. © Munksgaard, 1998.

Case Report

Following cataract surgery, a 70-year-old woman was treated with various eyedrops, including diclofenac sodium (Dichlod), prednisolone acetate, sodium cromoglycate and pranoprofen. 2 weeks later, she developed itchy erythema and edema of her eyelids, without conjunctivitis. After discontinuing treatment, these symptoms disappeared within 1 week. She had a previous history of contact dermatitis from topical non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), but could not identify which.

She was patch tested with eyedrops, NSAIDs and other constituents, with the following results.

	D2	D3
Dichlod (0.1% diclofenac) as is	++	++
diclofenac sodium 2% pet.	+	++
Inteban cream (1% indomethacin) as is	++	++
indomethacin 2% pet	++	++

The other drugs and constituents (including bufenaxac 5% pet.) were all negative.

Discussion

Cutaneous reactions to oral diclofenac have previously been reported (1), but only a few European studies have reported allergic contact dermatitis, to our knowledge (2–6). This is the 1st such report from Japan.

Diclofenac and indomethacin belong to the arylcanoic acid group, along with bufenaxac, and to the indolacetic acid group, respectively (7). No cross-reactivity between these groups has previously been observed (5). We therefore consider that our patient was multiply sensitized, due to her frequent use of topical NSAIDs.

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