

mium. We describe a new case of allergic contact dermatitis induced by nickel contained in cellular phone.

Case Report

A 25-year-old female patient presented with excoriated erythematous facial papular lesions. The lesions had appeared a month earlier, within days after purchasing a new cellular phone. The skin lesions were bilateral, but more pronounced on the right cheek (Fig. 1). Skin lesions were also observed on the right ear and in the preauricular region. The patient was right handed and she had a history of jewellery intolerance manifesting as contact dermatitis.

Patch tests were performed using the European standard series. Patch tests were positive only for 5% nickel sulfate at D2 and D3 (++/++) (Fig. 2). The nickel spot test with dimethylglyoxime performed on the cellular phone was positive (Fig. 3).

Discussion

We report a patient experiencing allergic contact dermatitis to a cellular phone caused by nickel. In our case the allergy to nickel could be anticipated based on a history of jewellery-induced eczema. It should be mentioned that the patient subscribed to an unlimited phone-plan and used her mobile phone for a total of 1.5 hr per day. It is possible that this heavy mobile phone usage as well as the warm summer climate in the southern French region precipitated the occurrence of contact dermatitis by enhancing nickel penetration to the skin. Most cases of allergic contact dermatitis to cellular phone are

Cellular phone addiction and allergic contact dermatitis to nickel

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Key words: cellular phone; contact dermatitis; nickel; metal allergy.

Contact dermatitis to nickel is a common cause of jewellery-induced eczema. Cellular phone dermatitis is increasingly described. It is often caused by allergy to hexavalent chro-



Fig. 1. Excoriated erythematous facial papular lesions.

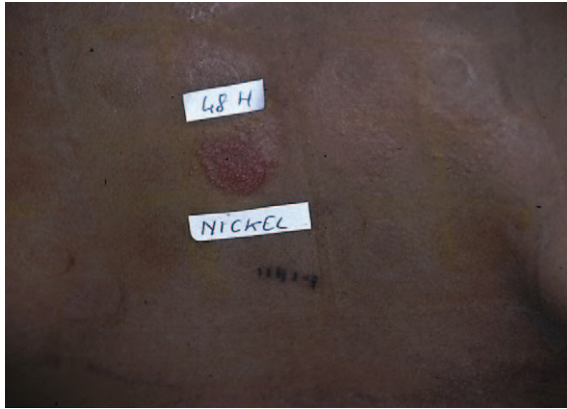


Fig. 2. Patch test positive for nickel.



Fig. 3. The nickel spot test positive.

caused by hexavalent chromium (1, 2). Only 2 cases of allergic contact dermatitis to nickel contained in cellular phones have been reported (3). The covering the cellular phone with a plastic film may favour the skin lesions rapidly resolved (3).

In conclusion, allergic contact dermatitis to metal contained in cellular phone is increasingly reported. Both hexavalent chromium and sulfate nickel should be implicated as a cause of contact dermatitis among cellular phone users.

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