

and alcohol. After 10 h, dermatitis appeared at the treated site and on the left hand with which she rubbed it in. The dermatitis cleared in 2 weeks.

The patient was patch test negative to 35 essential oils, but positive to vetiveril acetate (a synthetic flavouring agent) 2 % pet. She was also very positive to the fluid pressed from Arnica stems. For fear of inducing active sensitization, control subjects were not tested

with the plant fluid. Application of a whole *Arnica montana* plant to the forearm for 20 min did not evoke any skin change in the patient. She did not consent to application of the plant for a longer time.

The *Arnica montana* was probably the primary allergen in this case, and the turpentine a secondary allergen due to cross or pseudo-cross reaction.

Dermatitis from butylated hydroxy anisole

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A 52-year-old woman presented with contact dermatitis of the face. The ICDRG patch test battery was applied and positives were found to balsam of Peru and to a tinted foundation cream and liquid cosmetic used by the patient. The cosmetic company provided the individual ingredients (Table 1) and the allergen was identified as butylated hydroxy anisole. The patch test concentration of this agent was 0.1 % in white soft paraffin and the commercial product contains a concentration of 0.005 %. Since avoiding the cosmetics the patient has had no trouble.

This antioxidant has previously been reported as a cause of cosmetic dermatitis (Fisher 1976).

In Australia most cosmetic companies are helpful when approached and supply itemized lists of the contents of cosmetics along with samples. It is uncommon, however, to find specific chemicals other than perfumes as causes of contact dermatitis. This may be because of difficulty in determining the concentrations suitable for patch testing.

Reference

Fisher, A. A. (1976) Reactions to antioxidants in cosmetics and foods. *Cutis* 17, 21-28.

Table 1.

Red C33 705	Carboxylic polyelectrolyte	Nipastat
Red 300 404	Sodium carboxymethyl cellulose	Bentonite
Umbre 300 435	Butylated hydroxy anisole	Tioxide RCR2
Yellow 300 437	Alkyl myristate	Viscarine - seaweed extract
Sienna 300 414	Irgasan DP 300	Silicone fluid