

PRELIMINARY AND SHORT REPORTS

ECZEMATOUS CONTACT-TYPE ALLERGY TO PYRIBENZAMINE*

MAURICE J. STRAUSS, M.D.

In an article evaluating the therapeutic efficiency of Pyribenzamine hydrochloride when applied topically in pruritic dermatoses, Sulzberger, Baer, and Levin (1) reported two cases of eczematous contact-type allergy to this remedy in the ninety cases treated.

Since this is, to my knowledge, the first published report of this type of sensitivity to Pyribenzamine, and since this drug is being widely used for topical application, it would seem that confirmation of this report would be of value.

The patient, a man 50 years old, had been under the care of an oto-laryngologist for an eruption involving the ear and had been given an ointment consisting of 2% Pyribenzamine in a hydrophylic base. Instead of improving, the eruption became worse, finally presenting an acute, edematous, oozing, dermatitis of the entire face. Patch tests were applied with a medicated alcohol which the patient was using and also with the Pyribenzamine ointment. The latter gave a strongly positive reaction.

In order to establish whether the reaction was due to the Pyribenzamine or to one of the ingredients of the ointment base, and also to determine whether the type of base was a factor in causing the Pyribenzamine to produce the eruption, subsequent tests were done with Pyribenzamine 2% in a petrolatum base and in two water-miscible bases with different formulas. As controls, tests were done with equal parts of petrolatum and lanolin and with the two water-miscible creams alone. In each case the ointments containing the Pyribenzamine gave strongly positive reactions and the blank bases failed to produce any reaction.

This case brings confirmation to the report that Pyribenzamine is capable of producing an allergic reaction of the eczematous contact-type.

REFERENCE

1. SULZBERGER, MARION B., BAER, R. L., AND LEVIN, H. B.: Local Therapy with Pyribenzamine Hydrochloride. *J. Invest. Dermat.* 10: 41, 1948.

* From the Division of Dermatology, Yale University School of Medicine.

Received for publication May 27, 1948.