

5. Cunliffe W J, Burke B. Benzoyl peroxide: lack of sensitization. *Acta Dermato-venereologica* 1983; 62: 458-459.
6. Balato N, Lembo G, Nappa P, Ayala F. Benzoyl peroxide reactions in acne patients. *Contact Dermatitis* 1984; 10: 255.
7. Fernandez-Vozmediano J M, Gil-Tocados G, Manrique-Plaza A, Romero-Cabrera M A, Picazo-Sanchez J, Nieto-Montesinos I. Contact dermatitis due to topical spironolactone. *Contact Dermatitis* 1994; 30: 118-119.
8. Aguirre A, Manzano D, Zabala R, Eizaguirre X, Diaz-Perez J L. Allergic contact dermatitis from spironolactone. *Contact Dermatitis* 1994; 30: 312.
9. Vincenzi C, Trevisi P, Farina P, Stinchi C, Tosti A. Facial contact dermatitis due to spironolactone in an anti-acne cream. *Contact Dermatitis* 1993; 29: 277.
10. Tosti A, Guerra L, Morelli R, Piraccini B M. Contact dermatitis due to topical retinoic acid. *Contact Dermatitis* 1992; 26: 276.
11. Vejlstrup E, Menné T. Contact dermatitis from clindamycin. *Contact Dermatitis* 1995; 32: 110.
12. Fernandez Redondo V, Casas L, Taboada M, Toribio J. Systemic contact dermatitis from erythromycin. *Contact Dermatitis* 1994; 30: 311.

Allergic contact dermatitis from red sandalwood (*Pterocarpus santalinus*)

A. SANDRA, S. D. SHENOI AND C. R. SRINIVAS

Department of Dermatology, Kasturba Hospital, Manipal 576 119, Karnataka, India

Key words: *Pterocarpus santalinus*; red sandalwood; allergic contact dermatitis; herbal remedies. © Munksgaard, 1996.

Case Report

An 18-year-old woman, with post-chickenpox scars, developed itchy erythema and mild oedema over the scars on her face, following the application over them of red sandalwood (*Pterocarpus santalinus*) paste for 2 months. Patch testing with freshly prepared *P. santalinus* paste gave a positive reaction on D2, which persisted to D4, while a control with saline was negative. Her lesions subsided following the use of a mild topical corticosteroid. 10 volunteers, tested with the same paste, developed no reactions.

Comment

We concluded that the patient had developed allergic contact dermatitis from the bark of the tree *Pterocarpus santalinus*, also known as red sandalwood or raktachandana. This is ground to a paste, with water or honey, and applied topically as a popular home remedy used in southern India, especially Kerala, for post-acne and

other facial scars. To our knowledge, contact dermatitis from *P. santalinus* has not previously been reported, though it has been reported from the more traditional sandalwood, *Santalum album* (1, 2).

The active principles in *P. santalinus* are santalin A (9,10,12-tri-o-methylsantalin) and santalin B (9,10,12,4'-tetra-o-methylsantalin) (3), while those in *S. album* are α -santalol and β -santalol (4).

References

1. Sharma R, Bajaj A K, Singh K G. Sandalwood dermatitis. *Int J Dermatol* 1987; 26: 557.
2. Pasricha J S, Raman M. Contact dermatitis due to sandalwood (*Santalum album*). *Ind J Dermatol Venereol Leprol* 1986; 52: 232-233.
3. *Medicinal plants of India*, vol. 2. New Delhi: Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), 1987: 530-539.
4. *Selected medicinal plants of India*. Bombay: Bhrathiya Vidya Bhawan's Swami Prakashananda Ayurveda Research Center, 1992: 277-278.

This document is a scanned copy of a printed document. No warranty is given about the accuracy of the copy. Users should refer to the original published version of the material.