

Short Communication

Contact lupus erythematosus?

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Pemphigus (1–3), granuloma annulare (4, 5), mycosis fungoides (6) and bullous pemphigoid (7) have previously been described in association with skin contact.

A 58-year-old woman developed an itchy perioral eruption after starting to use a new toothpaste. In spite of topical corticosteroid therapy, remissions were no longer than a month. After a year, she consulted us. Perioral lesions showed some atrophy, follicular hyperkeratosis and peripheral hyperpigmentation. Biopsy showed marked follicular hyperkeratosis with subepidermal detachment due to extensive vacuolar degeneration, supporting the clinical diagnosis of lupus erythematosus.

Patch testing showed + reactions to potassium dichromate 0.5% pet. in the European standard series, cinnamic aldehyde 1% pet. and her toothpaste as is.

We speculate that pre-existing contact dermatitis may be capable of triggering a number of different skin conditions in predisposed individuals.

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