

Short Communication

Let Rip! Fun Pot[®] dermatitis

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Case Report

A 14-year-old boy presented with a 6-day history of acute vesicular eczema of the palms and fingers. He was otherwise well, with no previous skin problems. He had been constantly handling all day a bright green gelatinous substance called Let Rip! Fun Pot[®] 24 h prior to the onset. This had been purchased at a British retail store and did not have a list of ingredients. The manufacturer's instructions for this novelty product claim that sounds similar to flatus are obtained when a finger is pushed into the material. The patient's rash subsided with topical betamethasone valerate 0.1% ointment and his hands appeared normal 4 weeks later.

A list of ingredients was obtained from the Swiss manufacturer, which included parabens. Patch tests to European standard, medicaments and preservatives series were applied, as well as parabens and a sample of the material at separate sites. Both parabens and the material were positive (+) at 2 and 3 days.

Comment

A reaction within 24 h of initial contact with Let Rip! Fun Pot[®] suggests prior parabens sensitization. Allergic

contact dermatitis from parabens is not common. Of 397 healthy volunteers in the US, only 0.3% were sensitive to parabens (1). Repeated topical application of parabens at low concentrations may facilitate sensitization (2).

Parabens was listed as a minor ingredient in Let Rip! Fun Pot[®]. Potential sources of allergic contact dermatitis, such as this novelty product, should surely carry a full list of ingredients. In a similar case reported last year from Belgium (3), repeated enquiry of the manufacturer was necessary to reveal the presence of parabens in Slimy[®] play gel. Because they are toys, rather than cosmetics, such products escape current EU legislation on cosmetic ingredient labelling.

References

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