

### Routine patch testing with Irgasan DP 300®

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Irgasan DP 300® was introduced on the Swedish market in 1968. The annual sale is 3000–4000 kg (1975). It has increasingly replaced hexachlorophene in soap and other cosmetic products. Irgasan was subjected to our standard test in May 1973. The same concentration was chosen as used previously for hexachlorophene (0.5%). As appears from Table 1, 432 patients were tested and all were negative.

After the use of a concentration of 1% in ethanol in a Swedish study, we changed to this test solution. Tests were made on 470 patients, all of whom were negative.

Since the publication of Roed-Petersen's and Auken's report in August 1974, the same concentration has been adopted as that proposed by them: 2% in vaseline. During the period August 1974 to December 1975, 1100 patients were tested and two were positive.

*Patient 1.* A 22-year-old man with atopic eczema since childhood. Because of deterioration, a patch test was made. He reacted to Irgasan DP 300, with which he had come in contact through a deodorant.

*Patient 2.* A 15-year-old girl had previously had atopic eczema, especially in the cubital and popliteal fossae. She became acutely ill, with eruptions in both armpits, which could be ascribed to the use of a deodorant and a soap. A standard test showed a reaction to Irgasan DP 300, which was a component of both products.

Both patients were positive only to Irgasan DP 300 but negative to all other substances in the standard series, including mercuric chloride, benzalkonium chloride, and coal tar, which sometimes cause primary irritant reactions in atopics. There was conformity between exposure and the clinical picture, and the test reactions are considered to be expressions of contact allergy.

#### References

- Roed-Petersen, J. & Auken, G. (1974) Allergic contact dermatitis from Irgasan. *Contact Dermatitis Newsletter* 16, 520.  
Roed-Petersen, J., Augén, G. & Hjorth, N. (1975) Contact sensitivity to Irgasan DP 300. *Contact Dermatitis* 1, 293–294.

Table 1. Routine patch testing with Irgasan DP 300

|                   | Concentration | Vehicle  | Tested | Positive |
|-------------------|---------------|----------|--------|----------|
| May–Dec 1973      | 0.5 %         | vaseline | 432    | 0        |
| Dec 1973–Aug 1974 | 1.0 %         | ethanol  | 470    | 0        |
| Aug 1974–Dec 1975 | 2.0 %         | vaseline | 1100   | 2        |

### 4,4'-dithiodimorpholine, a new rubber sensitizer

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In a rubber factory we have recently examined 72 workers with dermatitis. All were examined by the ICDRG standard series of patch tests (supplied by Trolab, DK – 2900 Hellerup) and

a supplementary battery of rubber chemicals and resins used in the factory.

In 40 workers, the dermatitis could be related to their work, and they showed positive

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