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Polysensitization in Contact Allergy in Benin: Study of Three Cases

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Abstract

Introduction: Periodically updated (from 23 to 28 allergens), the European baseline series (EBS), first introduced in France in 1980, is an indispensable tool for the exploration of contact allergy. Patients with multiple contact allergies, also referred to as polysensitized, are more frequent than predicted from prevalence of single sensitivities.

Observations: There were three cases of patch tests carried out respectively in a 3 ½ years, a 37 year old woman and a man of 53 years. All three patients had polysensitization six contact allergens.

Discussion: This is a first study conducted in Benin on allergenic polysensitization. These three cases show that polysensitization can be seen in the child as well as the adult on the one hand, and in both sexes on the other.

Keywords

Contact allergy; Patch tests; Polysensitization; Benin

Introduction

Periodically updated (from 23 to 28 allergens), the European baseline series (EBS), first introduced in France in 1980, is an indispensable tool for the exploration of contact allergy [1].

Patients with allergic contact dermatitis to 1 antigen are at an increased risk of developing delayed type hypersensitivity (<http://www.imedpub.com/scholarly/hypersensitivity-journals-articles-ppts-list.php>) reactions to additional antigens. Both environmental and genetic factors likely influence the risk of sensitization [2].

Contact allergy to several non-related haptens, usually termed polysensitization (PS), is often used to characterize patients who are particularly prone to sensitization. Polysensitization may be regarded as a special entity in patients with contact allergies. However, this group of polysensitized patients is poorly characterized.

Filaggrin mutations are associated with atopic eczema and lead to impaired skin barrier which may predispose to contact allergy.

Therefore, it is of interest to consider atopic eczema and contact allergies, especially in patients with multiple allergies [3]. The literature supports the idea that patients with multiple contact allergies constitute a special entity within the field of contact allergy (<http://www.imedpub.com/scholarly/allergy-journals-articles-ppts-list.php>).

There is no generally accepted definition of patients with multiple contact allergies. A conventional definition for PS is positive reactions to three or more haptens of the baseline series [4,5]. To date, no studies have been carried out in Benin on polysensitization in contact allergy.

We report here the first study on this subject in our country. All patients had been tested in a dermatology clinic by the European Standard Series composed of 28 allergens.

Observations

Case 1

A 3 ½ years old child was followed as early as 03 months of age for recurrent eczema sometimes erythrodermic. The interrogation found a personal and family atopy. Crises were well controlled by weak dermocorticoids. But in the face of this recurrent chronic course, a patch test was carried out with the European Standard Series (ESS).

The reading was done at 48th hour and 96th hour. At the end of 96 hours of reading, it was observed a positivity for six allergens: N-isopropyl-N'-phenylparaphenylenediamine 0.1%, Fragrance mix 8%, Fragrance mix 14%, colophony, Paraphenylenediamine 1% and CI+ME-isothiazolinone 0.01%.

Relevance of these allergens investigation was carried out and was positive. The child's mother was using everyday products containing several different allergens identified. Removing these allergens for this child has achieved a permanent cure his eczema (Figure 1).



Figure 1: Polysensitization with six contact allergens in a 3½ year old child.

Case 2

A Catholic nun 37 years old woman was referred by his dermatologist for producing a patch test. The patient was followed by the latter for chronic atopic dermatitis recurring for several years. Crises were not well controlled by different therapeutics available in Benin. The interrogation found a personal atopy made of asthma (<http://www.imedpub.com/scholarly/asthma-journals-articles-ppts-list.php>) and allergic rhino sinusitis. The patch-test carried out with the European Standard Series allowed to observe a positivity for six allergens: Potassium dichromate 0.5%, Balsam of Peru 25%, N-Isopropyl-N'-phenylparaphenylenediamine 0.1%, Paraben-mix 12%, Sesquiterpene lactone mix 0.1% and Tixocortol pivalate 1% (Figure 2).



Figure 2: Polysensitization with six contact allergens in a 37 year old woman.

Relevance of these allergens investigation was carried out and was also positive. The patient wore leather or rubber shoes on the one hand and she regularly used throat lozenges, cough suppressants and nasal sprays to relieve her sinusitis. There are also cross-reactions between Tixocortol and Balsam of Peru. The removal of most of these allergens by the patient has greatly reduced her eczema attacks. Complete remission is not yet achieved because of these allergens contained in the products used for the treatment of rhino sinusitis; as

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