

COMMENTARY

Fragrance contact allergy

This issue of the JEADV contains an article by Bennike *et al.* reporting about a Danish survey through a novel smartphone application on the presence of the 26 fragrance components mandatory labelled on cosmetic products in the EU.

Fragrance contact allergy is common in the general population and among dermatitis patients. Recently, it has been shown that patch testing with the fragrance-allergy markers in the baseline series is insufficient to identify fragrance-allergic subjects and that indeed, beside the patient's own products used, all 26 fragrance contact allergens to be labelled need to be tested separately^{1–4}.

It was found that more than 5500 cosmetic products sampled had at least one of the 26 ingredients, and/or 'parfum', 'aroma' or 'fragrance' (the INCI names for other fragrance or aroma chemicals) listed on the label. Limonene and linalool, being pro-haptens as auto-oxidation transforms them into contact allergens, and which frequently cause contact allergy, were the single substances most often labelled on the investigated products; this renders them probable candidates for future inclusion in the baseline series.

Several cosmetic products containing one (or more) of the 26 ingredients did not mention the name 'fragrance' or 'parfum', which is very confusing to the consumer who is not always

familiar with those INCI names, and who may continue to use fragrance-containing products notwithstanding sensitization to them. This certainly enhances the interest and utility of this type of smartphone applications for the allergic consumer, particularly if more fragrance allergens than the 26 would be labelled.

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Reference

- 1 Bennike NH, Oturai NB, Müller S *et al.* Fragrance contact allergens in 5588 cosmetic products identified through a novel smartphone application" as the first reference? *J Eur Acad Dermatol* 2017; **32**: 79–85.
- 2 Bennike NH, Zachariae C, Johansen JD. Non-mix fragrances are top sensitizers in consecutive dermatitis patients - a cross-sectional study of the 26 EU-labelled fragrance allergens. *Contact Dermatitis* 2017; **77**: 270–279.
- 3 Vejanurug P, Tresukosol P, Sajjachareonpong P, Puangpet P. Fragrance allergy could be missed without patch testing with 26 individual fragrance allergens. *Contact Dermatitis* 2016; **74**: 230–235.
- 4 Mowitz M, Svedman C, Zimerson E, Isaksson M, Pontén A, Bruze M. Simultaneous patch testing with fragrance mix I, fragrance mix II and their ingredients in southern Sweden between 2009 and 2015. *Contact Dermatitis* 2017; **77**: 280–287.

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