

Letter To The Editor

Allergic contact dermatitis from medium-chain triglycerides

Dear Sir

I would like to supply some additional information and revision to the previously published article on allergic contact dermatitis from medium-chain triglycerides (1). My coauthors and I reported 2 patients who had become allergic to dicaprylyl maleate, and in 1 case also to caprylic/capric triglyceride, which were both ingredients in a moisturizing lotion. Caprylic and capric fatty acids are medium-chain triglycerides derived from coconut or palm kernel oil and widely used as emulsifiers in cosmetics and pharmaceuticals. A wide variety of medium-chain triglyceride esters and alcohols are produced, and we stated that dicaprylyl maleate was such an ester. However, the company producing the moisturizing lotion has subsequently disclosed further information on the patch-tested ingredients, which was initially not available to us.

Dicaprylyl maleate (chemical name: dioctyl maleate) is not a medium-chain triglyceride but a synthetic diester produced by reacting caprylyl alcohol and maleic acid, the latter being a

dicarboxylic acid. Its properties include low viscosity, dry emolliency and a silky, yet non-greasy after-feel. It is considered an all-purpose emollient and excellent solubilizer used in bath and other toiletry-type products. Tests have shown it to be non-toxic and only mildly irritant (primary irritation index 1-18). No allergic contact reactions have previously been reported.

In summary, we described 2 cases of allergic contact dermatitis from the synthetic ester dicaprylyl maleate and from medium-chain triglycerides manufactured from natural oils.

Yours sincerely,

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References

1. Laube S, Davies M G, Prais L, Foulds I S. Allergic contact dermatitis from medium-chain triglycerides in a moisturizing lotion. *Contact Dermatitis* 2002; 47: 171.

Errata

The publisher would like to apologize for errors in the following papers:

Isaksson M, Gruvberger B. Failure to induce sensitization to budesonide in the guinea pig. *Contact Dermatitis* 2003; 48: 50-52.

Gruvberger B, Isaksson M, Frick M, Pontén A, Bruze M. Occupational dermatoses in a metal-working plant: *Contact Dermatitis* 48: 80-86.

Bruze M should be the second author. Gruvberger B should not have been cited.

Ann Pontén's name was incorrectly cited as A.N.N. Pontén.