

Occupational Dermatitis in a Milk Industry Worker Due to Kathon CG

To the Editor:

Contact allergy to Kathon CG (Rohm and Haas, Philadelphia, PA) used in the concentrations that are recommended by the manufacturer is uncommon. It is, however, not surprising for allergic reactions to occur after exposure to undiluted biocide. Dr. Fernandez-Redondo cites an

Address reprint request to Jack N. Moss, 777 W. Germantown Pike #208, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462; E-mail: jmoss26@aol.com

accidental exposure to a product containing the biocide, but no information is given on the nature of the exposure, its frequency, or the concentration of biocide, all important parameters in allergic responses.

I should also point out that Dr. Fernandez-Redondo's reference to an incidence rate of 1.6% is actually a prevalence rate in her series of patients.

Jack N. Moss

Consultant in preclinical and clinical toxicology
Plymouth Meeting, PA

Response

To the Editor:

First, we would like to thank the author's precision about our case report and to apologize for the misuse of the term "prevalence" in it.

As to the other considerations, our patient suffered a single accidental exposure to undiluted biocide containing Kathon CG (Rohm and Haas, Philadelphia, PA). We requested the concentration of Kathon CG in the germicide (BIOSPERSE A 50) from the company (Iberia Ashland, Las Arenas, Vizcaya, Spain) without obtaining the exact concentration of Kathon CG in their product.

Address reprint requests to Prof. Dr. V. Fernandez-Redondo, Catedra de Dermatologia, Facultad de Medicina, University of Santiago de Compostela, C/San Francisco s/n, Santiago de Compostela, Spain; E-mail: dvfrme@usc.es

This single accidental exposure may have been enough to cause the presented contact dermatitis, as Kanerva and colleagues suggested.¹

Virginia Fernandez-Redondo, MD, PhD

Andres Beiras-Fernandez, MD

Jaime Toribio, MD, PhD

Catedra de Dermatologia

Facultad de Medicina

University of Santiago de Compostela

Santiago de Compostela, Spain

References

1. Kanerva L, Tarvainen K, Pinola A, et al. A single accidental exposure may result in a chemical burn, primary sensitization and allergic contact dermatitis. *Contact Dermatitis* 1994;31:229-35.