

Pseudo flautist's lip: allergic contact cheilitis from geraniol

YA-CHING CHANG AND HOWARD I. MAIBACH

Department of Dermatology, School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, Box 0989, Surge 110
San Francisco, CA94143-0989, USA

Key words: pseudo flautist's lip; allergic contact dermatitis; geraniol; lip balm; cosmetics. © Munksgaard, 1997.

Flautist's chin, as described by Dahl (1), consists of acneiform lesions. Gardner (2) suggested that it might be caused by sensitivity to nickel, chromium, or other constituents of the alloy of metal flutes. Hausen et al. (3) reported that a flute made of cocus wood caused perioral dermatitis and lip swelling. Inoue et al. (4) reported a flautist with chin dermatitis caused by sensitivity to nickel in a metal flute.

Case Report

A 23-year-old woman presented with severe cheilitis, which had waxed and waned for weeks. She was a student flautist and used a metal flute reed. She had a past history of herpes simplex labialis and used a lip sunblock for prophylaxis. She had begun using a new brand 2 weeks prior to dermatitis onset. Her flute reed contained 92% silver with the balance being brass. She had taped over the mouthpiece to isolate her lip from contact with the metal, but to no avail. The patient and referring dermatologist believed that the dermatitis was related to the flute and thus referred her for patch testing. The lip balm was discontinued following patch testing, after which she achieved gradual healing and was able to use another lip sunblock with impunity. The new lip sunblock contained the same sunscreen agents as the previous product, octyl methoxycinnamate and oxybenzone, but the original product contained herbal extracts of calendula and echinacea, whereas her new lip sunblock did not.

She was patch tested to an extended standard series, metal compounds, sunscreen agents with and without UV light, and her lip care, cosmetics, hair care and skin care products. There was a ++ reaction to the original lip balm and a ++ reaction to geranium oil 5% pet. The manufacturer confirmed that the herbal extract contained geranium oil.

Discussion

We have used 5% geranium oil for patch testing for 3 years without any false-positive irritant reactions. This therefore constitutes another potential cause of flautist's cheilitis. Ophaswongse & Maibach (5) have reviewed the causes of allergic contact cheilitis in detail.

Reference

1. Dahl M G C. Flautist's chin: a companion to fiddler's neck. *Br Med J* 1978; 2: 1023.
2. Gardner L D. Flautist's chin. *Br Med J* 1978; 2: 1295.
3. Hausen B M, Bruhn G, Koenig W A. New hydroxyisoflavans as contact sensitizers in cocus wood *Brya DC* (Fabaceae). *Contact Dermatitis* 1991; 25: 149-155.
4. Inoue A, Shoji A, Fujita T. Flautist's chin. *Br J Dermatol* 1997; 136: 147.
5. Ophaswongse S, Maibach H I. Allergic contact cheilitis. *Contact Dermatitis* 1995; 33: 365-370.

Contact sensitivity to 1-(4-(2-chloroethyl)phenyl)-2-chloroethanol in a polymer chemist

S. H. WAKELIN¹, G. CORDINA², D. BASKETTER³ AND I. R. WHITE¹

¹St John's Institute of Dermatology, St Thomas's Hospital, London

²Center for Materials Research, Department of Chemistry, University of Kent at Canterbury, Canterbury, Kent

³Unilever Environmental Safety Laboratory, Bedford, UK

Key words: allergic contact dermatitis; contact urticaria; polymer chemist; 1-(4-(2-chloroethyl) phenyl)-2-chloroethanol; occupational; laboratory workers. © Munksgaard, 1997.

Case Report

A 33-year-old organic polymer research chemist presented with intermittent urticaria and eczema on the forearms, face, neck and lower limbs. His symptoms started a month after he commenced synthesizing the

halogenated aromatic molecules 4-(2-chloroethyl)phenylchloromethyl ketone and 1-(4-(2-chloroethyl)phenyl)-2-chloroethanol (Fig. 1), which are intermediates in the synthesis of the monomer 4-vinylphenyloxirane (1). The intermediates are non-volatile and form fine white

This document is a scanned copy of a printed document. No warranty is given about the accuracy of the copy. Users should refer to the original published version of the material.