

Short Communication

Genital oedema from contact allergy to prednicarbate

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Case Report

A 68-year-old man, with pruritus and a burning sensation of the penis and scrotum, was treated with Brentan[®] cream (hydrocortisone and miconazole nitrate) and Deltacine[®] solution (neomycin and thimerosal), to which he developed an eczematous reaction in the genital and iniquinal region. Peitel[®] ointment (prednicarbate) was then applied, and 3 days later, an intense oedema of the penis and scrotum with erythema and vesicles was observed. Blood and urine analyses were normal. Bacteriological and mycological cultures were negative. The patient was treated with Adventan[®] ointment (methylprednisolone acetate), and the lesions disappeared completely.

Patch tests were carried out with a standard series, with positive results to nickel, quinoline mix, chlorquinaldol and thimerosal. We later applied a series of 30 corticosteroids, 2% petrolatum miconazole nitrate, the excipients and medicaments used by the patient. The results are shown in Table 1.

Discussion

The oedematous reaction occurred to prednicarbate (Peitel[®] ointment). Prednicarbate (17-ethylcarbonate-21-propionate prednisolone) is rapidly metabolized to prednisolone-17-ethylcarbonate and later to prednisolone. Doooms-Goossens et al. (1) applied prednicarbate 5% pet. in 7 patients allergic to corticosteroids and obtained only 1 positive response. Dunkel et al. (2) reported a case of sensitization to prednicarbate, using it "as is" for their patch test. In 61 patients allergic to corticosteroids, Doooms-Goossens et al. (3) found only 1 positive response to prednicarbate 5% pet.. Doooms-Goossens et al. (4) found 6 positive patch tests among 1144 patients tested with prednicarbate 1% eth. Lepoittevin et al. (5) found

Table 1. Patch test results

	D4
hydrocortisone 1% eth.	++
hydrocortisone 1% pet.	—
hydrocortisone 1% eth.	++
hydrocortisone acetate 25% pet.	—
hydrocortisone 17-butyrate 1% eth.	++
hydrocortisone 17-butyrate 1% pet.	—
hydrocortisone 1% eth.	+++
prednicarbate 1% pet.	++
tixocortol pivalate 1% pet.	+++
Brentan [®] cream	+++
Peitel [®] ointment	+++
other allergens	—

that prednicarbate 1% eth. elicited 19 positive reactions in 105 patients allergic to corticosteroids. 1% eth. appears to be the most appropriate patch test concentration. Cross-sensitivity to hydrocortisone 17-butyrate, a group D corticosteroid-like prednicarbate, is almost constant.

References

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