

Short Communication

Allergic contact blepharoconjunctivitis from dorzolamide

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Dorzolamide hydrochloride is a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor used long-term in glaucoma, and is a sulfonamide (1). Though widely prescribed, there has only been 1 previous report of documented contact allergy (2).

Case Report

A 72-year-old man had had bilateral glaucoma for 12 years and had been using timolol eyedrops. Recently, due to its poor ocular hypotensive efficacy, topical timolol was combined with Trusopt[®], an ophthalmic preparation containing dorzolamide hydrochloride 2%. 2 weeks after starting on Trusopt[®], he developed severe erythema, oedema and exudation of the eyelids and upper cheeks, with conjunctival hyperemia. Treatment with Trusopt[®] and topical timolol was stopped with clearance

of the skin lesions. There was no personal history of atopy or previous allergic contact dermatitis.

Patch tests with the European standard series, the patient's eyedrops and their individual constituents showed positive reactions only to Trusopt[®] eyedrops (as is) and dorzolamide (Table 1). Patch tests performed in the patient to study cross-reactivity between dorzolamide and 2 other sulfonamides, sulfacetamide and sulfanilamide, both used topically as antiseptics, were all negative.

Discussion

Dorzolamide has been shown to be a weak contact sensitizer in the guinea pig maximization test. Although ocular side-effects of dorzolamide, such as eyelid inflammation and conjunctivitis, have been reported (1), only 1 documented case of contact allergy has, to our knowledge, previously been described (2). Cross-reactivity between sulfonamides has been reported (3), but our patient, sensitized by dorzolamide, did not cross-react with other sulfonamides tested.

Acknowledgement

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References

1. Stewart W C, Sharpe E D, Harbin T S et al. Brimonidine 0.2% versus dorzolamide 2% each given 3× daily to reduce intraocular pressure. *Am J Ophthalmol* 2000; 129: 723–727.
2. Aalto-Korte K. Contact allergy to dorzolamide eyedrops. *Contact Dermatitis* 1998; 39: 206.
3. Cronin E. *Contact dermatitis*. Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone, 1980: 222–224.

Table 1. Patch test results

	D2	D3	D5	D7
European standard series	–	–	–	–
Trusopt [®] eyedrops (as is)	+	++	++	+
Trusopt [®] constituents				
dorzolamide hydrochloride				
aq. 2%	+	++	++	+
1%	+	++	++	+
0.1%	+	++	+	+
0.01%	+	+	+	+
0.001%	?+	–	–	–
0.0001%	?+	+	+	–
other constituents	–	–	–	–
timolol 1% aq.	–	–	–	–
sulfacetamide 5% pet.	–	–	–	–
sulfanilamide 5% pet.	–	–	–	–

Dorzolamide at 1% and 2% aq. was negative in 16 controls.