

Airborne contact dermatitis due to methylchloro- and methylisothiazolinone (MCI/MI)

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Key words: allergic contact dermatitis; airborne contact dermatitis; methylchloro- and methylisothiazolinone; MCI/MI; Kathon® CG; paints; occupational. © Munksgaard, 1997.

Case Report

A 33-year-old waitress presented with acute dermatitis of the face, neck, forearms, and distal upper arms, together with mild conjunctivitis, 1 day after returning to work after a holiday. On sick leave, she recovered in a week, only to relapse again on her 2nd day back in the restaurant. 2 years ago, she had had a macular contact dermatitis of her face due to MCI/MI in a moisturizing cream, since when she had used MCI/MI-free cosmetics only. However, the walls of the restaurant had been painted a few days before she had originally returned to work, and the paint manufacturer confirmed that the paints used contained MCI/MI as preservative. The patient was transferred to another room (snack bar) that had not yet been painted and her symptoms disappeared. She told us that just passing through the newly painted restaurant was sufficient to make her itch again. After remaining in the snack bar for 6 months, she was able to return to the restaurant without any relapse.

Discussion

The MCI/MI in the wall paint that had been applied in the restaurant during the patient's holiday was the cause

of an occupational airborne contact dermatitis. Similar cases due to MCI/MI in paints have previously been reported (1–3). Paints are often preserved with other isothiazolinones, i.e., benzisothiazolinone and octylisothiazolinone (4), which were found not to cross-react on further patch testing in our patient, as reported previously (4).

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Contact allergy in psoriasis

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Key words: contact allergy; psoriasis; medicaments; nickel; fragrance mix; coal tar; colophony; neomycin. © Munksgaard, 1997.

It has been suggested that allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) is uncommon in psoriasis (1, 2), but associated with flexural (3) and palmoplantar (4) involvement. We have studied a series of patients to determine the frequency of contact allergy to common allergens and topical treatments and relate this to the pattern of psoriasis.

Patients and Methods

75 adult patients with psoriasis were patch tested to the European standard series and a series of 32 psoriasis medicaments. The exclusion criteria were psoriasis involving the upper back to such an extent that patch testing was not possible, and concomitant phototherapy or

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