

## Active sensitization to (meth)acrylates

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**Key words:** active sensitization; (meth)acrylates; patch testing technique. © Munksgaard, 1998.

Patch testing with (meth)acrylates runs risks of irritation and active sensitization at higher concentrations, and false-negative results at lower (1–3).

### Case Report

A 62-year-old woman presented with a 4-year history of palatal lesions related to the wearing of a plastic dental prosthesis. Examination revealed erythema and slight erosions of the palate. Patch testing with the GEIDC standard series and additional series of plastics and glues, rubber chemicals and (meth)acrylates (Chemotechnique) were negative after 2 and 4 days.

3 weeks later, she re-attended because of some discomfort in the test area. Examination confirmed that

there were erythematous areas on her back, corresponding to the area of application of the (meth)acrylates series. Repatch testing with the (meth)acrylates series gave the reactions shown in Table 1.

### Discussion

We presume that our patient's presenting symptoms were irritant, rather than allergic, and that she was actively sensitized by patch testing with (meth)acrylates. Both Cavalier et al. (2, 3) and Kanerva et al. (1) have published previous cases, which have become rarer since patch test concentrations were reduced.

### References

1. Kanerva L, Estlander T, Jolanki R. Sensitization to patch test acrylates, *Contact Dermatitis* 1988; 18: 10–15.
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3. Cavalier C, Jelin G, Herve-Bazin B, Foussereau J. Irritation et allergie aux acrylates et methacrylates (II). Monomeres acryliques polyfonctionnelles. *Ann Dermatol Venerol* 1981; 108: 559–568.

Table 1. Repatch test results

| Allergen                         | (%) | Vehicle | D4  |
|----------------------------------|-----|---------|-----|
| butyl acrylate                   | 0.1 | pet.    | +++ |
| ethyl acrylate                   | 0.1 | pet.    | +++ |
| 2-hydroxyethyl methacrylate      | 2   | pet.    | +++ |
| methyl methacrylate              | 2   | pet.    | +++ |
| ethyleneglycol dimethacrylate    | 2   | pet.    | +   |
| triethyleneglycol dimethacrylate | 2   | pet.    | +   |

## Textile dye contact dermatitis in an allergic population

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**Key words:** allergic contact dermatitis; dyes; clothing; textiles; patch testing technique; Disperse Blue 124; disperse mix. © Munksgaard, 1998.

We have reviewed 1012 patients (311 men and 701 women) with suspected allergic contact dermatitis, who were patch tested with the GIRDCA standard series, augmented by a disperse mix and 2 dark dyes (Disperse Black 1 1% pet. and Disperse Blue 3 1% pet.), these 2 latter being selected as frequently responsible for sensitization in Italy (1). In cases with a positive history of wearing coloured garments, we also performed patch tests with pieces of suspected fabrics.

Of the 1012 patients, 31 (26 women and 5 men) reacted positively to textile dyes. Our main finding was that only 2 subjects out of 31 had occupational contact with fabrics (a fabric salesman and an employee in a

dry-cleaners), whereas other data indicate that most such sensitization is to be found in textile and manufacturing industry workers (2). Only 10 patients out of 31 gave a clear history of intolerance to dyed garments. We found no cases of sensitization from socks or stockings, while these are frequently mentioned as sources in the literature (2). The clothes responsible for sensitization were underwear, trousers, linings (2 cases each), shirts, tracksuits, shoulder-straps and a dyed bracelet (1 case each). The neck was most often involved (7 patients out of 31), followed by the hands and thighs (6 patients), and eyelids (5 patients) (2–4).

Disperse Blue 124 was most often positive (22 cases