

Textile dermatitis and dyed maggot exposure

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Key words: allergic contact dermatitis; azo dyes; maggots; larvae; textiles; clothing; fishing. © Munksgaard, 1997.

A 62-year-old engineer, with a long history of hand dermatitis, was investigated in 1996 for a widespread pruritic dermatitis of the hands, legs, face, neck and back. Patch tests had been negative in 1976, and positive to epoxy resin, balsam of Peru and *p*-phenylenediamine in 1984. Examination revealed a patchy dermatitis with accentuation under coloured articles of clothing. Patch testing revealed positive reactions to PPD free base (0.5% pet.) ++, a range of azo disperse dyes (Disperse Red 17 (1% pet.) +++, Disperse Black 1 (1% pet.) ++, Disperse Red 1 (1% pet.) +++, Disperse Orange 3 (1% pet.) +++, and Disperse Blue 153 (1% pet.) ++). Detailed questioning revealed that the patient had been a keen coarse fisherman, using red, yellow and bronze maggots for more than 30 years with many episodes of residual staining of his hands. There has been a marked improvement following treatment with topical corticosteroids and emollients, avoidance of coloured clothing items and cessation of the use of dyed maggots.

Discussion

Clinical features and patch test results are consistent with a textile dermatitis preceded for many years by hand dermatitis. It is speculated that exposure to azo compounds in dyed maggots may have been the primary sensitizing source.

Fishermen employ dyed maggots extensively, using

different larval species and dyes for various fish species, environments and water temperatures. Internal dyeing involves feeding *Lucilia* or *Calliphora* larvae meat treated with rhodamine (C.I. 45160) or auramine (C.I. 49005) (1). There is little free dye on the larval surface and contamination is minimal except when threading the maggots on hooks.

Bronze maggots are usually prepared with the azo dye chrysoidine (C.I. 11270) or basic orange (C.I. 11320, chrysoidine R) (1). Larvae are reluctant to ingest these dyes, and hence bronze maggots are produced by surface staining with increased exposure to the skin of fishermen. Despite case control studies associating coarse fishing (and bronze maggots in particular) with urothelial carcinoma (2), their use remains widespread.

The primary sensitizer in azo textile dye dermatitis is usually unclear but clothing, hair treatments and occupational factors (3) have been suspected. Exposure to dyed maggots should be considered in anglers with allergic dye contact dermatitis.

References

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Contact dermatitis from neticonazole

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A 38-year-old man was seen in August 1996 with pruritic scaly erythema on the toes of both feet (Fig. 1). In November 1995, he had started using 1% neticonazole cream (Atolant®, SS Pharmaceut. Inc., Tokyo, Japan) from a clinic. 6 months later, he had erythema and scaling on the toes of both feet. He was patch tested on the inner side of the upper arm with neticonazole

1% and 10% pet., the base of Atolant®, bifonazole, clotrimazole, ketoconazole 2% pet., and econazole, econazole, isoconazole, lanoconazole, miconazole, sulconazole, tioconazole, amorolfine, butenafine, and terbinafine creams. Neticonazole 1% and 10% pet., and econazole and sulconazole creams were positive at 2 and 3 days after application.

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