

Pharmaceutical manufacturers have been relatively quick to change from the older benzocaine style of local anaesthetic with its high sensitization index, to the far less frequent sensitizers of the amide group. However, these cases of delayed hypersensitivity to lignocaine make one question the wisdom of including such a useful agent (cardiac arrhythmias, relatively safe local anaesthesia) in topical preparations for such relatively minor conditions as sunburn.

Burry, J. N., Kirk, J., R., J. G. & Turner, T. (1973) Environmental dermatitis. Patch test in 1,000 cases of allergic contact dermatitis. *Medical Journal of Australia* 2, 681.

Eyre, J. & Nally, F. F. (1971) Nasal test for hypersensitivity. *Lancet* 1, 264.

Noble, D. S. & Pierce, G. F. M. (1961) Allergy to lignocaine: A case history. *Lancet* 2, 1436.

From this observation, it may be concluded that the patient was allergic to dodecyl-di(aminoethyl) glycine hydrochloride, the main component of Tego 103-G solution.

References

- Bowers, R. E. (1968) Tego (Dodecylglycine hydrochloride). *Contact Dermatitis Newsletter* 4, 76.
- Calnan, C. D. (1974) Tego dermatitis (tele-

phone cleaner). *Contact Dermatitis Newsletter* 15, 439.

- Fregert, S. & Dahlquist, I. (1969) Allergic contact dermatitis from Tego (dodecylglycine hydrochloride). *Contact Dermatitis Newsletter* 5, 103.

Frequency of sensitivity to Grotan BK in Denmark

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Sensitivity to Grotan® (hexahydro, 1, 3, 5 tris (2-hydroxyethyl) triazine) used as a preservative in cutting oils was recently described by Keczkés & Brown (1976). Previous publications suggest that the sensitizing properties of Grotan are so strong that sensitivity might be frequent in a mixed material of patients with eczema (Hjorth 1976).

Materials and Methods

A group of Danish dermatologists in practice included in their standard patch test series in 1976-1977 a 2 % aqueous solution of Grotan BK (a mixture of hexahydro, 1, 3, 5 tris (2-hydroxyethyl) triazine 80 %, N-oxy-methyl-amino derivatives (not specified) 4 % and water 16 %). The total number tested were 694.

Grotan BK did not seem to give irritant reactions when tested 2 % in water. At the Department of Dermatology, Gentofte Hospital the concentrations were then increased to 5 % aq. and 5 % pet.

Results

Among a total of 694 patients tested in dermatological practice 13 (2 %) had a positive reaction to Grotan BK 2 % aq. Sensitivity occurred with greater frequency in women than in men (Table 1).

Among 39 patients tested with Grotan BK 5 % aq. and 5 % pet. at Gentofte Hospital, two had positive patch test reactions to both Grotan BK 5 % aq. and 5 % pet., while one only had positive reactions to Grotan BK 5 %

Table 1. Grotan BK 2 % aq. in standard series

	No. tested	Positive
M	271	3
F	423	10
Total	694	13 (2 %)

pet. Further, 80 consecutive patients patch-tested with Grotan BK 5 % pet. had negative reactions.

Relevance of positive reactions

Grotan BK is a formalin releaser (Table 3) and in fact, among 13 patients with positive reactions to Grotan BK 2 % aq., seven also had positive patch test reactions to formalin, while six were sensitive to Grotan BK only. Six of those tested had a positive patch test reaction to formalin but gave a negative reaction to Grotan BK (Table 4).

Among a total of 119 patients tested with Grotan BK 5 % pet. two were positive to Grotan BK and formalin, one to Grotan BK only and one to formalin only. The reaction to Grotan BK only was unexplained. The two coincident reactions to formalin and Grotan

Table 2. Grotan BK 5 % pet. and 5 % aq. in standard series

	pos.	neg.
Grotan BK 5 % pet.	3	36
Grotan BK 5 % aq.	2	37