

## Short Communication

# Photoallergic contact dermatitis from aceclofenac

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**Key words:** aceclofenac; photoallergic contact dermatitis; non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs; medicaments; lack of cross-sensitivity. © Munksgaard, 2001.

### Case Report

An 81-year-old-woman, with a previous history of penicillin allergy and osteoarthritis, had been treated with various non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including aceclofenac, with good tolerance. However, after local application of Airtal Difucem<sup>®</sup> 2× a day, acute eczema appeared on sun-exposed areas of her lower limbs. Cream application was stopped, sun exposure avoided and topical corticosteroid treatment started, with rapid resolution.

She was patch tested with the GEIDC standard series, an NSAIDs series (ketoprofen 1%, indomethacin 1%, 5% and 10%, paracetamol 1%, 5% and 10%, salicylic acid 1% and 5%, benzydamine hydrochloride 3% and 5%, bufexamac 5%, naproxen 5%, ibuprofen 5%, phenylbutazone 1%, fepradinol 1%, thiosalicylic acid 0.1%, diclofenac 1%, 5% and 10% and piroxicam 1%, all pet.: Lab. Ifidesa- Aristegui<sup>®</sup>) and aceclofenac at 1%, 5% and 10% pet. (Almirall<sup>®</sup> Lab.), using Leukotest<sup>®</sup> and Mefix<sup>®</sup> as support, with readings at D2 and D4, according to ICDRG criteria. Photopatch testing was also performed with 5 J/cm<sup>2</sup>UVA (Waldmann 7001-k), with readings at D1 and D3 after irradiation.

Results are shown in Table 1. The same tests with aceclofenac were performed in 6 healthy volunteers, with entirely negative results.

### Discussion

Aceclofenac ([o-(2,6-dichloroanilino)phenyl] acetic acid ester) (Fig. 1) is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug of the phenylacetic acid group (1). After its absorption, the drug is hydrolyzed to diclofenac (2). In Spain, aceclofenac is used as oral, topical and parenteral preparations, side-effects so far reported having been mainly gastrointestinal discomfort, nausea, heartburn and toxic hepatitis (3). Adverse dermatologic effects, including pruritus, exanthems and 3 cases of leukocytoclastic vasculitis, have also been reported after oral treatment with aceclofenac (4–6). No cases of photoallergic contact dermatitis appear to have been described.

To our knowledge, this is the 1st report of photoallergic contact dermatitis from topical aceclofenac. 10% pet. is recommended for photopatch testing. We found no cross-reactivity between aceclofenac and diclofenac.

Table 1. Results of patch and photopatch testing

Allergens	% & vehicle	Patch test		Photopatch	
		D2	D4	D1	D3
standard series		–	–	NT	NT
NSAIDs series		–	–	–	–
aceclofenac	1% pet.	–	–	–	–
aceclofenac	5% pet.	–	–	–	–
aceclofenac	10% pet.	–	–	+	++

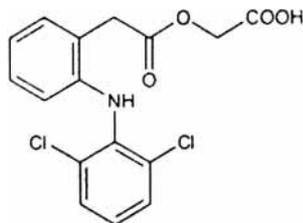


Fig. 1. Chemical structure of aceclofenac.

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