

Short Communications

Contact allergy to dexpanthenol in sunscreens

M. JEANMOUGIN, J. R. MANCIET, J. P. MOULIN, F. BLANC, A. PONS AND J. CIVATTE

Hôpital Saint-Louis, Unité de Photodermatologie, 2, place du Dr. A. Fournier, 75475 Paris Cedex 10, France

Key words: allergic contact dermatitis; sunscreens; dexpanthenol; cosmetics; medicaments.

A 21-year-old student had been suffering for 2 years from an oedematous erythema of the face which only appeared during winter sports. He was not taking any drugs, but on his 1st stay in a winter resort, he had applied to his skin a "moisturizing sunscreen cream" called 4 Roc®, and on his 2nd stay, a "totally invisible screen" called 15 Roc®.

All standard ICDRG patch tests were negative, but patch tests performed with the 4 Roc® and 15 Roc® sunscreens were positive. Among the different constituents of these products, obligingly supplied by the manufacturer, only dexpanthenol (Dexpanthenol Roche®) 5% aq. gave a strongly positive reaction with erythema, oedema and 30 vesicles. A photobiological exploration with MED, repeated phototests and standard photoallergens proved negative. The UVA photopatch tests (Sunsystem® lamp, 30 J/cm²) showed no additional photoaggravation.

Dexpanthenol (Fig. 1) is widely used in the pharmaceutical and cosmetic industries for its moisturizing, soothing and sedative properties. Cases of con-

tact allergy have occasionally been reported (1-6), one of them involving a sunscreen (2). Dexpanthenol should be added to the list of contact allergens contained in topical photoprotective products, the agents mainly responsible for allergy being filtering agents such as monoglyceryl PABA, padimate A, padimate O, benzophenones, homomenthyl salicylate and cinnamates (3, 7). Photoallergy is ruled out by the fact that photopatch tests were negative.

References

1. Collhausen R, Przybilla B, Ring G. Contact allergy to dexpanthenol. *Contact Dermatitis* 1985; 13: 38.
2. Ippen H. Kontaktallergie auf dexpanthenol. *Derm Beruf Umwelt* 1981; 29: 45.
3. Jeanmougin M. *Photodermatoses et photoprotection*, ed: Roche, 1983; 212.
4. Lampe P. Kontaktallergie gegen dexpanthenol. *Allergologie* 1984; 7: 153.
5. Schultz K H. Kontaktallergie durch dexpanthenol. *Derm Beruf Umwelt* 1981; 29: 80.
6. Van Ketel W G. Hair lotion dermatitis with sensitization to d-panthenyl ethyl ether. *Contact Dermatitis* 1984; 10: 48.
7. Thune P. Contact and photocontact allergy to sunscreens. *Photodermatologie* 1984; 1: 5-9.

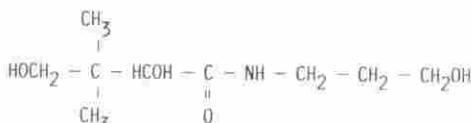


Fig. 1. Chemical structure of dexpanthenol.

Oakmoss photosensitivity in a ragweed-allergic patient

JERE D. GUIN AND DAVID B. JACKSON

Department of Dermatology, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, 4301 West Markham Street, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205, USA

Key words: photosensitivity; oakmoss; Compositae; cosmetics; allergic contact dermatitis.

Reactions to sesquiterpene lactones occur from certain species of Compositae, Magnoliaceae, Laura-

ceae, liverworts (1) and fragrance materials derived from such sources (2). Oakmoss absolute is a com-

This document is a scanned copy of a printed document. No warranty is given about the accuracy of the copy. Users should refer to the original published version of the material.