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Table 1. Patch test reactions to bisphenol A epoxy resin (Epidian 5) and triethylenetetramine in Poland

Authors	Town	No. tested	Triethylene-tetramine		Epoxy resin	
			conc	% Pos	conc	% Pos
Rosner & Hryniewiecka 1968	Poznań	20	1 %	35	1 %	40
Ammer 1970	Łódź	10	0.1 %	20	1 %	80
Woytoń 1977	Wrocław	115	0.1 %	23.5	1 %	28.7
Rudzki et al. 1979*	Warszawa	447	1-2 %	51.2	1-2 %	49.2

*99 of these patients were described by Krajewska & Rudzki (1976) and 135 were tested with 2 % triethylenetetramine and 2 % epoxy resin.

Anaphylactic reaction to framycetin (neomycin B) and lignocaine

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Compared to the systemic toxic effects of neomycin, the allergic side effects are much better known. Contact allergy to neomycin was found in 25 out of 437 patch tested patients (5.7 %) in the Department of Dermatology and Allergy of the City Hospital, Munich-Schwabing, in 1977. In contrast to these figures, which are in agreement with the literature, allergy of type I to neomycin is very rare.

Contact dermatitis (delayed allergy) may in addition be elicited by parenteral or oral application of certain sensitizers, while cases of contact urticaria (immediate allergy) are also described.

We wish to report a case of anaphylactic reaction following local application of a preparation called Leukase®-Kegel.

Case Report

Female patient B.G., 33 years old, with a history of contact dermatitis and hypersensitivity to neomycin, benzocaine and p-aminodiphenylamine proved by patch testing. In 1972 in the course of dental treatment, after injection of lignocaine (Xylesthesin®), she developed generalized urticaria, edema of the face and tightness in the chest. In 1974 after the birth of her first child, generalized urticaria and features of shock occurred. Topically applied medicaments at the time included Mepivacaine (Scandicain®), and an unknown liquid dressing as a spray. Other routine medicaments used during delivery were not employed because of the history of allergic reactions in the patient.

In 1976 she had anaphylactic shock after the incision of an abscess of the forearm under local anesthesia with freezing by ethyl chloride spray. On detailed questioning the patient told us later that after the incision, Leukase-Kegel had been instilled into the wound. A Leukase cone contains framycetin (10 mg), trypsin (1E) and lignocaine (2 mg).

Skin Tests

Intradermal test were performed on the patient with several local anesthetics and neomycin (consisting of about 90 % neomycin B (= framycetin) and 10 % neomycin C) in the form of Bykomycin®, and gave the following results.

Test	Scratch	Prick Intracutaneous		
		20 min	20 min	24 h
Control	-	-	-	-
Procaine	NT	-	-	+
Lignocaine	NT	-	+	-
Ultracaine	NT	-	-	-
Mepivacaine	NT	-	-	-
Neomycin	anaphylactic shock	NT	NT	NT

(Δ framycetin)

Only a few minutes after performance of a scratch test, the patient began to suffer from generalized itching and a feeling of heat, while a generalized erythema was developing. She collapsed and the blood pressure could not be recorded. By the use of high doses of corticosteroids (350 mg prednisolone i.v.), the para-

meters of the blood circulation were normal within 1 h.

The test results and the unwanted anaphylactic reaction proved that this patient had a type I allergy against neomycin and lignocaine.

Discussion

The anaphylactic reaction after delivery can probably be attributed to the use of the spray (Maucher 1972). The liquid dressings often contain a local anesthetic like lignocaine, and neomycin (Nebacetin®), which may enter the circulation through the surgical wound.

The simultaneous occurrence of delayed and immediate type allergy against both neomycin and local anesthetics (benzocaine, lignocaine, procaine) is remarkable.

Of particular importance for the patient is the fact that cross-sensitivity to kanamycin, paromamycin, gentamycin and the other aminoglycoside antibiotics may exist in a high percentage of patients (Carruthers & Cronin 1976, Walter & Heilmeyer 1975, Schorr & Ridgway 1977).

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Determination of chrome in rubber gloves

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Two Spanish investigations into rubber dermatitis showed that 56 % of 78 patients with housewives' eczema of the hands showed sensi-

tization to various allergens in rubber gloves (Camarasa 1968, Pinol & Camarasa 1968). They also found that hexavalent chromium

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