

## Allergic contact dermatitis due to the fungicide hexetidine

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A 69-year-old female patient had received Hexoral® in order to treat a sore throat during restoration of her teeth. 3 weeks later there was severe inflammation of the mucous membrane of her oral cavity. Patch tests were performed with allergens of the ICDRG standard test battery and a further test battery of substances often used by dentists, as well as with Hexoral® and its ingredients. There was no reaction to any substance of the ICDRG standard test battery or to the test battery substances used by dentists, but there was a reaction to Hexoral® and the fungicide ingredient hexetidine.

	%	48 h	72 h
Hexoral®	10 aq.	+?	++
hexetidine	0.1 vaseline	+	++

To rule out the possibility of hexetidine being

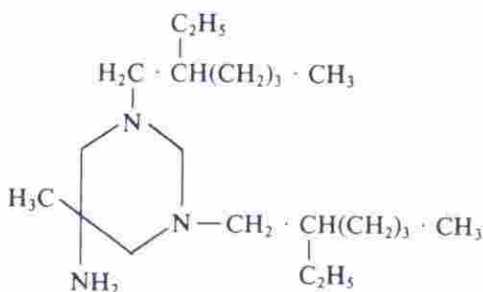


Fig. 1. Structural formula of hexetidine.

an irritant, 20 subjects who had no history of an allergic reaction due to Hexoral® or other products containing hexetidine, were tested with this compound (1). 1 male of this group showed an allergic reaction to hexetidine and to p-phenylenediamine.

Hexetidine is a pyrimidine-derivative (Fig. 1) and is used as a fungicide in gargles (1,2). Recently it was mentioned that there is a possibility that fungicides may play a more important role as contact sensitizers than we have previously assumed (3). The allergic reaction to the pyrimidine derivative hexetidine in a person without a history of allergic reactions to Hexoral® underlines this view.

The case presented above demonstrates that allergic reactions due to fungicides used in gargles may be an important differential diagnosis of allergic diseases occurring during dental treatment.

## References

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2. Satzinger G, Herrmann W, Zimmermann F. Analytisches Profil des Rein-Hexetidins Arzneimittel-Forschung. *Drug Research* 1975; 25: 1849-1853.
3. Cronin E. *Contact Dermatitis*. Edinburgh - London - New York: Churchill Livingstone, 1980.

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