

Short Communications

Contact dermatitis from Nifuratel

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Nifuratel, 5-((methylthio)methyl)-3-(((5-nitro-2-furyl)methylene)amino)-2-oxazolidinone, is an antiseptic for topical use only. In Italy it is marketed as an antimycotic and antitrichomonas agent (Macmiror® ointment, tablets and vaginal suppositories; Macmiror Complex® ointment and vaginal suppositories). It is a constituent of a product advertised for the treatment of haemorrhoids (Emorril® ointment and suppositories). We report a case of contact dermatitis from Emorril® ointment probably due to nifuratel.

Case Report

A 45-year-old man with haemorrhoids had been applying a number of different topical agents to relieve burning and pain for a long time. In February 1986, he developed a severe eczematous dermatitis which spread from the perianal region over his buttocks and upper thighs.

Patch tests with the GIRDCA (Gruppo Italiano di Ricerca sulle Dermatiti da Contatto e Ambientali) standard battery (prepared by FIRMA SpA, Florence) showed no positive reactions. Topical agents, their constituents and some chemically related hap- tens gave the results shown below.

Lasoproct® ointment (as is)	+++
Emorril® ointment (as is)	+++
other topical agents (as is)	-
tetracaine 2% pet. (constituent of Lasoproct®)	+++
other Lasoproct® constituents	-
Emorril® constituents:	
lidocaine 10% pet	-

Nifuratel	N.T.
trihydroxyethyleneteroside	N.T.
hydrocortisone acetate 25% pet	-
anhydrous lanolin as is	-
methylparaben 3% pet	-
propylparaben 3% pet	-
propylene glycol 10% water	-
triethanolamine 5% pet	-
carbomer	N.T.
petrolatum as is	-
benzocaine 5% pet	-
dibucaine 1% pet	-
procaine 2% pet	-
nitrofurazone 0.25% pet	-

According to these results, Nifuratel was regarded as the probable sensitizer of Emorril® ointment in our patient. Because pure nifuratel was not available, we verified our hypothesis by patch testing our patient with Macmiror® ointment, which contains nifuratel 10%, but neither trihydroxyethyleneteroside nor carbomer. We obtained a strongly positive reaction (+++).

To our knowledge, only 1 case of Nifuratel contact dermatitis has been described (1), but it was caused by Macmiror® ointment.

Reference

1. Bedello P G, Goitre M, Cane D, Fogliano M R. Contact dermatitis from nifuratel. *Contact Dermatitis* 1983; 9: 166.

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