Sensitization to solcoseryl and methylanisate (fragrance ingredient)

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Mr. E. M. (762165) is a 34-year-old metal grinder who had posttraumatic thrombosis in 1971, developed lower leg ulcers in 1974 and later a weeping stasis dermatitis. Such patients are now routinely patch tested in our clinic (Malten et al. 1973).

The patient reacted to:
1. Neomycin (20% pet.), Seframycin (20% pet.)
2. Iodine tincture (1% alc.)
3. p. Chloro m. cresol (2% pet.)
4. Methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl and benzyl p. hydroxy benzoic acid ester (parabens) (5% of each pet.)
5. Ultralan cream (as is) known to contain
6. Solcoseryl gel (as is)
7. Solcoseryl ointment (as is) parabens
8. Methyl- and ethyl anisate (each 4% pet.) which are fragrance ingredients.

He denied using perfumes, although perfumes may have been present in some cosmetics or therapeutics used by him. It is, however, likely that the reaction to the perfume ingredients should be regarded as group specific reactions in a patient contact sensitized to parabens (and other ingredients) present in topically applied medicaments, because of the chemical relationships shown in the formulae.

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Dermatitis in engineers due to synthetic coolants

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In the engineering industry, workers employed on the production of metal components usually are at risk from contact with lubricants or cooling emulsions. The well-known manifestations of such contact are oil acne and contact dermatitis.

Allergic sensitization is not common, the most frequent sources being metals and certain additives (e.g. anti-oxidants, anti-bacterial agents) including aromatic amines, mercaptop-

benzothiazole and phenolic compounds.

We have studied workers over a 4-year period at a car engine factory producing pistons and other components. The total work population was about 2000.

In 1972 we were first consulted in connection with a high incidence of oil acne attributed to sulphonated or chlorinated mineral oils. After investigation of the working conditions and the usual preventive measures, a
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