

SUMMARY OF:

ALLERGIC CONTACT DERMATITIS TO SYNTHETIC RUBBER GLOVES

CHANGING TRENDS IN PATCH TEST REACTIONS TO ACCELERATORS

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BACKGROUND

One of the largest causes of contact dermatitis has been linked to rubber gloves. This is especially most prevalent in health care workers.

OVERVIEW

It is investigated in this study that allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) can be caused not only by rubber gloves, but occur with non-latex products as well. Most of the contact allergies have been linked to the accelerators used in rubber to speed up the vulcanization process.

RESULTS

626 patients were tested between 5/1/07 and 5/31/09. Out of 626 patients 23 patients tested positive to dermatitis due to 1 or more chemicals found in rubber gloves. Many different accelerator chemicals found in gloves could be a contributor to a patient's ACD. Since the mid-1990's the largest chemical contributor to sensitization, Thiurams, has appeared to be on a decline, whereas a carba-mix, ZDEC, ZBDC, and DPG appear to have increased. As manufacturers have looked for alternative ways to lower or eliminate certain accelerator chemicals others have been introduced.

CONCLUSION

The only way to cure diagnosed chemical-induced ACD due to glove use, is to use gloves that are allergen free from what the patient was tested to be positive to, and/or to stop wearing gloves. Patch testing appears to be the best way in which to uncover all chemicals that a patient might be exposed and reacting to. The changes from ACD and sensitization to rubber glove accelerators from thiurams to a carba-mix are happening most frequently in the healthcare setting.

References 1. Cao et al., Allergic Contact Dermatitis to Synthetic Rubber Gloves: Changing Trends in Patch Test Reactions to Accelerators. www.archdermatol.com. ARCH DERMATOL/VOL 146 (NO. 9), SEP 2010. 1001-1007.

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