

SUMMARY OF:

OCCUPATIONAL CONTACT ALLERGY CAUSED BY RUBBER GLOVES – NOTHING HAS CHANGED

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BACKGROUND

Allergies that result from rubber gloves causing contact dermatitis have been heavily attributed to accelerators. Of all allergens identified, Thiurams were the most frequent with dithiocarbamates coming in second most common.

OVERVIEW

This study looked at data from the Information Network of Departments of Dermatology (IVDK) from 2002-2010. The authors looked to see if there was a pattern in patients that had allergic contact dermatitis through the use of rubber gloves.

RESULTS

From 2002-2010; 93, 615 patients were tested. 14, 148 patients (15.1%) were diagnosed as occupational dermatitis. Out of the 14, 148, 3,448 (24.4%) were given additional testing to see if they reacted to a glove allergy. The 3,448 were given patch tests of typical allergens used in glove manufacturing to increase elasticity of the glove. They were Thiuram mix (1%), ZDEC (1%); MBT (2%) and mercapto mix (1%). Thiuram was the most frequent allergen at 13.0%.

CONCLUSION

It was strongly recommended that glove manufacturers have a mandatory labeling of chemical accelerators on the glove packaging. Over the last 17 years the contact allergy to accelerators found in elastic gloves is still prevalent and has remained un-changed. It was also recommended that thiuram-free gloves be introduced to the marketplace to hopefully prevent further thiuram sensitization.

References Geier et al., Occupational contact allergy caused by rubber gloves- nothing has changed. *Contact Dermatitis*. 2012, 67; 149-156.

This summary is written and provided by Ansell Healthcare Products LLC. Ansell Healthcare has attempted to summarize the published study as accurately as possible, but makes no representation to the accuracy of the summary. We refer the reader to the actual study for additional information.