

SUMMARY OF:

ALLERGIC CONTACT DERMATITIS CAUSED BY LATEX (NATURAL RUBBER)-FREE GLOVES IN HEALTHCARE WORKERS

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BACKGROUND

Latex surgical gloves were eliminated and replaced by non-latex gloves (Esteem micro; Medline international). Since this was implemented, the hospital has experienced an increase in contact allergic events by surgeons, OR nurses and anesthetists. The majority of these healthcare workers did not have a past history of hand dermatitis despite working for decades.

OVERVIEW

This article discusses the increase of contact allergies from Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc and University Hospital KU Leuven (Belgium) after replacing their latex gloves for non-latex gloves. Both latex and non-latex gloves contain rubber additives.

RESULTS

Eight operating room workers from two hospitals suffered hand eczema between December 2010 and October 2011 in relation to the use of non-latex gloves (Esteem Micro). Patch tests showed a positive reaction to the gloves. 1.3-Diphenylguanidine (DPG) has not been considered as a frequent sensitizer, however, in this sample 62.5% (5/8) of patients reacted to this chemical in the last year due to the use of non-latex gloves. As a possible explanation of the non-latex glove allergy increase is the use of cetylpyridinium chloride (CPC), an irritant in itself that can increase the risk of sensitization to rubber additives or a use of higher concentration of chemical accelerators.

CONCLUSION

There is an increase of the level of allergic contact allergies following a move from latex to non-latex gloves (Esteem micro). DPG was involved in the majority of cases and this coincides with other recent report that indicates a rise on the contact allergies caused by 1.3-Diphenylguanidine

References 1. Baeck et al., Allergic contact dermatitis caused by latex (natural rubber)-free gloves in healthcare workers. *Contact Dermatitis*. 2013 Jan;68(1):54-5

This summary is written and provided by Ansell Healthcare 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.

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