

COST Action TD 1206 “StanDerm”



Seminar on

”Etiology and prevention of occupational contact dermatitis: New challenges”

24 June 2014, Barcelona

ABSTRACT

Topic: Allergens and risk assessment

Title: High prevalence of contact allergy to Methylisothiazolinone 0,2% aq. tested in the baseline series in Stockholm

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Keywords: contact allergy, methylisothiazolinone, occupational

Background: Sensitization to methylisothiazolinone (MI) is an emerging problem in the population with high frequency of contact allergy reactions reported in most European centers.

Aim: Our aim was to study frequency of contact allergy to MI 0,2% and related substances, as well as clinical characteristics of patients reacting positive.

Method: MI 0,2% aq., 0,05% aq., MCI/MI 200 ppm aq. and benzisothiazolinone 0,05% pet. were patch tested between August 2012 and December 2013 in 273 consecutively tested dermatitis patients referred to our contact allergy unit.

Results: 40 out of 273 patients reacted positive to MI (14,6%), 39 of 40 detected with MI 0,2%, and only 27 out of 40 detected with testing 0,05% aq. Only 66% of positive cases reacted to MCI/MI in the baseline series. We found an increasing frequency of positive reactions to MI even within this short study period from 11,1% to 16,4%. 14,8% of women and 14,3% of men reacted positive with a median age of 38 years. Hand eczema was the most common diagnose. 6 of these 40 patients were painters, 4 health care personnel, 4 hairdressers, 4 working in a kitchen.

Summary: Contact allergy to methylisotiazolinone occurs in an alarming high frequency among consecutively tested dermatitis patients, equally effecting men and women.