

Cluster of Contact Dermatitis Due to Dye Used in SOTUS Activity

Dear Editor

Contact dermatitis due to irritant is a common dermatological problem. However, the cluster of cases or outbreak is not common¹⁻². In this paper, the author hereby reports an emerging on a cluster of contact dermatitis due to the artificial dye in a group of university students during their SOTUS (seniority, order, tradition, unity and spirit) activity. These students participated in the SOTUS activity as an activity of the student affairs. In the scenario, 45 cases (28 males and 17 females) visited to the primary health care unit complaining for the itching skin lesions. The skin lesions were erythematous. All cases gave the common history that the skin lesions started after applying the dye on their faces and bodies in a game during their SOTUS activity. The skin lesions occur shortly after application of the dye (within 5 - 10 minutes). The problematic dye is the general dye used for painting, composing with nitrobenzene and titanium oxide. All cases were treated by oral antihistamine and topical steroid lotion with complete recovery.

Contact dermatitis is an important problem in dermatology³. Several objects can induce the contact dermatitis condition³. There are numerous reports on contact dermatitis in the literature. However, almost all reports focus on single individual case. Focusing on the few reports outbreak, most are due to the biological organisms. In this specific report, the author describes a cluster of contact dermatitis, which is not a common scenario in dermatology. The contact dermatitis due to dye is not frequently mentioned⁴⁻⁶. In addition, the big cluster of contact dermatitis as in this report is rarely seen. In this scenario, the improper use of dye can be seen. In general, the dye is not designed for body painting. If it is used for that purpose, specific production must be done. In this specific scenario, the dye, which is not specifically designed for body painting, was used during a SOTUS activity. This reflects the unawareness of the students who joined this SOTUS activity. Indeed, the SOTUS activity is reported for its relation to many dangerous unwanted outcomes. Proper recommendation on safety tools and objects for the activity is needed. This report shows not only interesting cluster of contact dermatitis but also the

need for the control of products for activity such as SOTUS activity. (*Iran J Dermatol* 2009;12: 105)

Viroj Wiwanitkit

Corresponding author:

Viroj Wiwanitkit

Wiwanitkit House, Bangkhuae, Bangkok Thailand
10160

Email: wviroj@yahoo.com

Received: July 12, 2009

Accepted: August 15, 2009

References

1. Mortz CG, Andersen KE. New aspects in allergic contact dermatitis. *Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol* 2008;8:428-32.
2. McFadden J. Allergy and consumer products; what constitutes an epidemic? *Contact Dermatitis* 2008;59:325-6.
3. Majewska M, Szczepanik M. Contact sensitivity reaction, its mechanism and regulation. *Postepy Hig Med Dosw (Online)* 2009;63:47-57.
4. Le Coz CJ, Lefebvre C, Keller F, Grosshans E. Allergic contact dermatitis caused by skin painting (pseudotattooing) with black henna, a mixture of henna and p-phenylenediamine and its derivatives. *Arch Dermatol* 2000;136:1515-7.
5. Spandorfer M, Curtiss D, Snyder JW. Health hazards in drawing and painting. *Occup Med* 2001;16:535-55.
6. Wakelin SH, Creamer D, Rycroft RJ, White IR, McFadden JP. Contact dermatitis from paraphenylenediamine used as a skin paint. *Contact Dermatitis* 1998;39:92-3.