



CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

## **COSMETIC CONTACT SENSITIVITY IN GENERAL POPULATION – A CLINICO-ALLERGIOLOGICAL STUDY**

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**Background:** The increased use of cosmetics has lead to an increased prevalence of allergic contact dermatitis to cosmetics with an estimated 1-5.4 % of the general population having allergic sensitivity to one or more cosmetic components.

**Objectives:** The aim of this study was to study the patterns of cosmetic dermatitis among general population and to identify the most common allergens and cosmetic product causing dermatitis using patch testing.

**Methods:** One hundred and forty consecutive patients (M:F 57:83) with suspected cosmetic dermatitis were examined, detailed history regarding the use of different cosmetics was taken and the pattern of dermatitis was noted. All of them were subjected to patch testing using Indian Cosmetic Series.

**Results:** The study included 57 (40.71%) males aged between 18 and 74 years and 87 (59.28%) females aged between 18 to 69 years and the majority of patients were in the 40-59 years age group (54.28%; n=76). . The most common sites of cosmetic dermatitis observed were hands in eighteen, face and neck in nine and disseminated in three patients. The most frequently implicated cosmetics were hair dyes (58.5%), face creams (42.1%), perfumes (32.1%), soaps (16.4%) and nail paints (13.5%). Seventy nine (56.42%) patients showed positive reaction to one or more allergens on patch testing. The most common allergens were p phenylenediamine (PPD) in fifty four (68.35%), fragrance mix in eight (10.12%), colophony, paraben mix and thiomersal in three patients each (3.79%).

**Conclusion:** The incidence of cosmetic dermatitis is higher among the 40-59 years age group with hands and face being the most commonly affected sites. Hair dyes and creams are the most commonly implicated agents, while PPD, fragrance mix are the most common causative allergens.

