



CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

FREQUENCY OF CONTACT SENSITIZATION TO ALLERGENS OF THE EUROPEAN STANDARD SERIES

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Introduction: Contact allergy is a skin or mucous membrane non-infectious inflammation developed after a contact with an allergen by delayed type of hypersensitivity reaction. Diagnosis is verified by patch test. The incidence of contact allergy varies between studies, according to the studied population and selection of allergens for patch testing.

Objective: The aim of the study was to estimate the frequency of contact sensitization to the European standard series and to determine the most common contact sensitizers in the same series.

Materials and Methods: At Dermatovenereology Clinic, Clinical Centre of Vojvodina, the total of 580 patients suspected to allergic contact dermatitis were allergy tested by patch test to the European standard series. The results were collected and analyzed as a retrospective study for the period from 1st January 2011 to 31st December 2015. The comparison of sensitivity rates between both sexes was made using a chi-square test.

Results: Of total number of tested, 61.03% were sensitized to at least one allergen in the series during the patch testing. The most common contact sensitizers were Nickel-sulfate (22.07%), Balsam of Peru (11.21%), Potassium dichromate (9.31%), Budesonide (7.76%) and Methylisothiazolinone/Methylchloroisothiazolinone (6.90%). Nickel sensitivity rate was significantly higher in women ($p < 0.05$), but Budesonide sensitivity rate was significantly higher in men ($p < 0.05$).

Conclusions: The incidence of contact sensitization to the European standard series is generally similar to those reported in other countries. The most common contact sensitizers in our study are among top five contact sensitizers in other studies.

