



CONTACT DERMATITIS AND OCCUPATIONAL DERMATOSES

PEDIATRIC SKIN AND HAIR CARE PRODUCTS: A MAJOR SOURCE OF EXPOSURE TO METHYLISOTHIAZOLINONE

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Introduction: Several reports of contact dermatitis highlight a very dangerous allergen in pediatric cosmetics: Methylisothiazolinone (MI) (and methylchloroisothiazolinone: MCI).

Objective: Our aim was to evaluate the occurrence of MI in infant cosmetics products.

Methods: The ingredient lists of infant skin and hair products were analyzed essentially for presence of MI at 2 pharmacies and 3 super-markets.

Results: Of 129 products surveyed, 15 products (11%) contained MI (13 as part of the MCI/MI mixture). Half of products containing MI were leave-on products. Hair products (6 shampoo, 40%) and wipes (26%) were the major categories of MI-containing products. Presence of MI was noted in 3 of 10 shower gel and in 1 of 7 moisturizers products. None of the sunscreens surveyed contained MI. The ingredient lists were also analyzed for others allergens: fragrance, formaldehyde, decyl glucoside, parabens and propylene glycol. 55% contained at least one of the screened allergens. Only 36 products were allergens-free. There were 12 products that contained at least 2 distinct contact allergens and 12 that contained at least 3 distinct allergens. 7 products contained 5 allergens and 1 contained 7 allergens. Fragrance allergens were the most prevalent (68%). Others allergens were: propylene glycol 19%, decyl glucoside 6%, paraben 7% and formaldehyde 3%.

Discussion: Our study proves that MI continues to be widely used in pediatric cosmetics in Tunisia. The fact that MI is actually banned in leave-on products; but present in 40% of our products emphasizes the need for a regulation on the presence of this allergen, among others, in cosmetics products especially in sensitive skin of children. Moreover, it is important to educate parents to read the ingredient list in order to avoid MI in personal care products for their children.

