



URTICARIA, ANGIOEDEMA

## SKINWRITOMETER FOR DIAGNOSIS OF DERMOGRAPHISM

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**Introduction:** Symptomatic dermographism, a kind of physical urticaria is a common condition which affects a patient's quality of life. There is a need for an objective method to determine the provocation threshold for patients, in order to facilitate individualized diagnosis and treatment.

**Aim:** To compare the dermal responses evoked by a skinwritometer and with those evoked by a ball point pen tip.

**Methods:** Dermal provocation was performed in 10 patients with symptomatic dermographism and 10 healthy controls. The Skinwritometer consists of three tips of varying length, which are stroked over the skin, while the ball point pen has a single tip. The widths of the resulting wheals were measured.

**Results:** Both instruments were similar in their ability to produce dermal responses. The wheal widths of 3 mm induced by the skinwritometer were used as the provocation thresholds to distinguish between patients and controls, and to indicate the different levels of severity within the patient group.

**Conclusions:** The skinwritometer was easy to use and produced an objective response. This simple and inexpensive instrument could be used to individualize diagnosis and treatment of patients with symptomatic dermographism, allowing for better personalized management.

