



Allergic contact dermatitis in patients with atopic dermatitis

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Introduction

Both atopic dermatitis (AD) and allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) are common dermatological conditions with a steadily increasing incidence. Given the particularly frequent exposure to topical medications and cosmetics, patients with AD appear to be at an increased risk of developing contact allergies. The characteristics of ACD in AD patients are determined by distinct immunological mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of each condition.

Aim

To characterize the profile of ACD in AD patients and identify additional haptens relevant for ACD diagnosis in this group.

Material and methods

A retrospective analysis of patch test results was conducted from patients under the care of a dermatological outpatient clinic between 2020 and 2024. The diagnosis of ACD was carried out using haptens included in the Polish Standard series, expanded by an additional 12 substances with high allergenic potential for patients with AD.

Results

The study included 618 patients with ACD, including 164 patients with coexisting AD. Nickel-induced ACD was the most prevalent in both groups. Among cosmetics-related allergens, textile dye mix emerged as the leading cause of ACD in patients with AD, accounting for 20% of cases. Methylisothiazolinone and balsam of Peru were the most common allergens in patients without a history of atopy, responsible for approximately 15% of allergic reactions. Notably, among the



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additional allergens tested, dodecyl gallate and hydrocortisone demonstrated significant allergenic potential in AD patients, inducing allergies in 15% and 6.7% of cases, respectively.

Conclusions

Patients with AD may present a distinct ACD profile. Expanding the diagnostic allergen series should be considered for this specific patient group.