

SKIN DISEASES AND BURNS

- 344 Chromate in Welding Fumes with Special Reference to Contact Dermatitis.
S. Fregert and P. Ovrum. *Acta Dermato-Venerol.* 43, 119 (1963).

Welding fumes are known to be toxic, but contact dermatitis due to the presence of chromium is not generally recognized. Hexavalent chromium was demonstrated in a number of arc-welding fumes. Patch tests with the extracted allergen elicit positive reactions in chromium-sensitive persons. The allergen may at times actively sensitize arc welders.
-- J. Occ. Med. Absts.

- 345 Comparison of Intradermal Test and Patch Test Using Nickel Sulfate and Formaldehyde—A Quantitative Approach. P.V. Marcussen. *J. Invest. Dermatol.* 40, 263 (1963).

From comparing a patch test of 5% nickel sulfate with an intradermal test of 1:10,000 nickel sulfate in a group of nickel-sensitive patients and controls and in a consecutive dermatitis series, it was concluded that the intradermal test is more specific and more sensitive in nickel allergy than the patch test. However, no dilution of formaldehyde in an intradermal test could distinguish between allergic and nonallergic persons. No definite case of isolated intradermal sensitivity to nickel showed a positive epidermal reaction upon patch testing again.
-- J. Occ. Med. Absts.

- 346 Contact Eczema Caused by True Teak (*Tectona grandis*). A Follow-Up Study of a Previous Epidemiological Investigation, and a Study into the Sensitizing Effect of Various Teak Extracts.
H.K. Krogh. *Brit. J. Ind. Med.* 21, 65-68 (Jan. 1964).

A followup study of a previous epidemiological investigation in a furniture factory concerning allergic contact eczema caused by true teak (*Tectona grandis*) clearly shows that a good educational campaign associated with specific and general prophylactic measures are able to control occupational dermatoses. At the first investigation 20.5% of the workers had allergic contact eczema or severe itching whereas only 8.3% suffered from the same complaints on reexamination. The different prophylactic measures previously recommended had been taken. Patch tests with various teak extracts were made on 13 workers sensitized to teak; these showed that lapachol (a derivative of naphthoquinone) is one of the sensitizing agents in teak wood. Furthermore, allergic reactions were obtained in 7 of these workers when Jacaranda wood dust containing lapachol was used as the test substance.
-- Author's abstr.

- 347 Toxic Thromboplastic Extracts of Skin. Potential Role in Thermal Injury.
C.L. Fox, Jr. I.A. Holder and Lucinda L. Malin.
J. Am. Med. Assn. 187, 655-658 (Feb. 29, 1964).

Since extensive thermal burns result in considerable mortality despite massive, fluid therapy, the possible roles of factors other than fluid and electrolyte derangements need investigation. Highly toxic substances can be extracted from both normal and burned skin of mice and humans. One of these extracts exhibits thromboplastic activity as well as toxicity immediately after intravenous injection. When this extract is injected subcutaneously into normal mice, hypercoagulability is induced which is similar to that occurring after thermal injury. Toxic factors released from skin by thermal trauma may contribute to the pathogenesis of burn shock. There are 19 references.
-- Authors' summary

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