CONTACT ALLERGY IN PATIENTS WITH LEG ULCERS: FOCUS ON MODERN WOUND CARE PRODUCTS

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Background: Sensitizations to topical treatments used in leg ulcers is common. Patch testing is used to identify causative substances.

Aim: To determine the current frequency in our area with focus on modern wound care products.

Material and methods: A retrospective study (2007-2011) of 39 patients with leg ulcers and dermatitis or not progressive resolution ulcers. Patch tests were performed with the standard (GEIDAC) and ulcers (Marti Tor) contact allergens series. We also tested suspect care wound products.

Results: Positive reactions were observed in 26 (66%) patients and 19 (73%) of them had involved 2 or multiple positive patch test results. The most relevant groups of sensitizers were: Baum of Peru (19 patients), Antibiotics as neomycin, polimixin B and nitrofurazona principally (16 patients) and Fragrance mix as isogeunol and geraniol principally (10 patients). There were 8 patients with reactions related with modern wound care products: elastic bands, healings and hydrogels.

Conclusion: Polysensitization is frequent in patients with chronic leg ulcers. In our opinion Baum of Perú and fragrances used in care wound products should no longer be used in these patients in order to prevent sensitizations.

About modern wound care products sensitizations to hydrogels or dressings to promote healing were related with propylene glycol or fragrances. Sensitizations to thiram mix were related with the use of elastic bands directly on the skin leg.