

CONTACT ALLERGY: THE IMPACT OF GENDER AND OCCUPATION

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Aim was to determine the most common allergens in patients according sex, age, and occupation.

Methods. Analysis of 3293 files of patch tested patients from 1999 to 2003 clinically diagnosed to have contact allergic dermatitis, contact irritant dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, psoriasis vulgaris, dermatitis seborrhoica and other inflammatory dermatitis.

Results: Our research has proved a statistically significant difference in patch - tested patients according to given parameters. For cobalt chloride, nickel sulfate and thiomersal the difference is expressed according to sex and age. Women were sensitized significantly more often than men (2335 vs 958). According sex and sensitivity to most frequent allergens, statistical significant is to potassium dichromate ($\chi^2 19.40$; $p < 0.001$), cobalt chloride ($\chi^2 18.00$; $p < 0.001$), nickel sulfate ($\chi^2 175.00$; $p < 0.001$). The analysis according age (0-20; 21-40; 41-60; 61-80) revealed a trend of decreasing sensitivity with age for cobalt chloride (13.9% to 8.6%; $p < 0.001$), nickel sulfate 17.6% to 10.8%; $p < 0.001$), thiomersal (6.8% to 1.6%; $p < 0.001$). The analysis of the clinical diagnoses in relation to sex revealed female patients who prevail in contact allergy in all diagnoses mostly in allergic contact dermatitis. In 3293 patients according six different occupation and patch test results there was statistical significant difference for allergens: cobalt chloride ($\chi^2 27.92$; $p < 0.001$), nickel sulfate ($\chi^2 28.12$; $p < 0.001$), Balsam of Peru ($\chi^2 60.66$; $p < 0.001$), fragrance mix ($\chi^2 46.50$; $p < 0.001$), thiuram mix ($\chi^2 20.28$; $p < 0.001$).

Conclusion: The relative risk for contact allergy in our study is for: nickel sulfate, cobalt chloride and carba mix in all examinees without connection with sex, age, occupation and diagnoses.