

A STUDY ON HAIR DYE CONTACT DERMATITIS-ITS CLINICAL PRESENTATIONS AND ALLERGENS

ABSTRACT

Introduction: The desire for every individual to project a more youthful look has led to the innovation of various commercial hair coloring products which can cause both irritant and allergic contact dermatitis. Adverse reactions of hair dye affects the persons quality of life and confidence. It even forces the patient to change their occupation in case of hair dressers and cosmetic persons.

Aim: To determine the epidemiological pattern, most prevalent clinical presentations and common possible allergens in hair dye contact dermatitis.

Method: A prospective study of patients with a clinical suspicion of contact dermatitis to hair dye were studied.

Results: Among 43 participants, majority of the participants were males (70%) from urban locality (80%) and 30% of them were skilled workers. ACD to hair dye was more common in persons who have used hair dyes for one to five years with a frequency of once in a month. More than one third of them had itching immediately after application of hair dye and more than half of them had chronic skin lesions. 89% of the patients had positive patch test in which more than half of them showed PPD positivity while one third had pigmentation response alone. PPD was found to be the common allergen in contact dermatitis to hair dye which is in similar to other studies reported.

Conclusion: Paraphenylenediamine (PPD) is the most common ingredient causing allergic contact dermatitis to hair dye. Awareness about the ingredients helps us in counselling the patient to avoid the causative hair dye and change to an alternative hypoallergenic dye.

Key words: paraphenylenediamine, allergic contact dermatitis, hair dye, epidemiological pattern.