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CASE REPORT

Body Dermatitis: Brief Report Of Two Cases And An Alert To Pediatricians

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Abstract

Allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) in the pediatric age group is an increasingly recognized condition, due to early exposure to different contactants. Bodysuit dermatitis refers to ACD caused by nickel, released from metal buttons present in childrens bodysuits. This case report addresses two similar cases, with the aim of alerting pediatricians and caregivers regarding early awareness and correct diagnosis.

INTRODUCTION

ACD can stem from an allergy to nickel, a metal found in the buttons of onesies. The two cases described in this article aim to build awareness among pediatricians and caregivers about ACD. This article was approved by the Research Ethics Committee involving Human Beings of our institution (certificate 18884619.0.0000.0096).

CASE REPORTS

The first case involved a nine-month-old boy taken to our service with a well-defined, itchy, erythematous, scaly lesion on the left shoulder that had been developing for a month (Figure 1). The second was a six-month-old girl with an erythematous scaly lesion on the left shoulder that had been developing for two months (Figure 2). Both often wore

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Figure 1. Well-defined subacute eczema on the left shoulder.



Figure 2. Subacute eczema on the left shoulder.

cotton onesies with metal buttons that superimposed perfectly with the location of the lesions (Figure 3). The two infants were diagnosed with ACD due to nickel allergy. Their parents were advised not to dress them in clothes with metal buttons. The infants were prescribed low-potency topical corticosteroids and improved completely from the lesions.



Figure 3. Onesie with metal buttons with nickel

DISCUSSION

The clinical relevance of pediatric ACD has grown in recent years. In the past, cases of ACD in children were deemed uncommon due to a supposed low exposure to allergens and their less susceptible immune system.[1] The growth in the incidence of ACD in children is caused by early exposure to different contactants found in cosmetics, medicines, and adornments.[2] Nickel is the most common cause of ACD worldwide, accounting for 26.8% of cases in positive epicutaneous patch tests performed in children under three years of age.[1] ACD from nickel hypersensitivity is a cell-mediated delayed reaction (type IV) to metal ions, which manifests in the acute phase with erythema, edema, papules, vesicles, and exudation, and in the chronic phase with xerosis, scaling and fissures.[3] The primary sources of sensitization are jewelry, buckles, and metal buttons.[4] A diagnosis of ACD can be confirmed with a patch test. The lesions are treated with topical corticosteroids or calcineurin inhibitors.[2]

CONCLUSION

ACD from nickel allergy is a common condition in children. Early recognition and limiting or preventing exposure to nickel improve patient prognosis.

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