

An Overview of Airborne Contact Dermatitis

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Airborne-contact dermatitis (ABCD) is a form of contact dermatitis which originates from air borne allergens like dust, sprays, pollens etc. ABCD is most commonly seen secondary to plant antigens especially to compositae family. However, recently cases of ABCD due to non-plant allergens have also been reported. This review focuses on common air borne allergens/irritants, clinical manifestations, diagnosis and management of air borne contact dermatitis.

Keywords:

Introduction

Contact dermatitis is a common skin condition caused by irritants or allergens. Airborne contact dermatitis (ABCD) is a form of contact dermatitis which originates from air borne allergens like dust, sprays, pollens etc. ABCD is most commonly seen secondary to plant antigens especially to compositae family. However, recently cases of ABCD due to non-plant allergens have also been reported. This review focuses on common air borne allergens/irritants, clinical manifestations, diagnosis and management of air borne contact dermatitis.

Nature of Airborne Contactants

Airborne contactants are those allergens which are carried by air and cause contact dermatitis. They are usually plant antigens, especially from the Compositae family. Other common allergens include dust, sprays, and pollens. The clinical manifestations of ABCD are usually acute and localized to the site of contact. The diagnosis is usually clinical, but patch testing can be helpful in some cases. Management involves avoidance of the allergen and the use of topical corticosteroids.

Diagnosis and Differential Diagnosis

The diagnosis of ABCD is usually clinical, based on the history and physical examination. Patch testing can be helpful in some cases. The differential diagnosis includes other forms of contact dermatitis, such as allergic contact dermatitis and irritant contact dermatitis.

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