

**CLINICAL STUDY OF PATCH TESTING IN HAND DERMATITIS AMONG
PATIENTS ATTENDING DERMATOLOGY OPD, SDMCMS&H.**

Dharwad

By

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ABSTRACT:

Background and Objectives:

Hand eczema, a condition that is frequently multifactorial, usually disabling or distressing to the sufferer, and often difficult to treat. Hand eczema is one of the most common dermatological disorder caused by various exogeneous and endogeneous factors.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the common age and sex affected by dermatitis of hand and to identify the allergens causing hand eczema.

Methods:

50 patients were selected for the study. Detailed history and examination was done. The patients who consented were patch tested with antigens of Indian standard battery series containing 20 allergens. The patches were removed after approximately 48 hours. Reading was taken after 30 minutes.

Results:

A total of 50 patients of hand eczema were studied. 26% of patients belonged to 2nd and 3rd decade. In total number of 50 patients who completed the study, 21(42%) were males and 29 (58%) were females. The male to female ratio was 0.7:1. Among females 20 (40%) were housewives followed by skilled and unskilled workers who were about 20% each. Pruritus was the most common symptom seen in 94% of patients. In this study out of 50 patients, 22(44%) gave history of aggravation by contact with detergent and soaps, and 12 (24%) for cement, 10 (20%) for plants, 7(14%) for vegetables, 13 (26%) for chemicals and 7(14%) for others.

26% of patients presented with hyperkeratotic palmar eczema, followed by ring eczema 14%. Out of 50 patients patch tested, 41 patients gave positive results, 9(18%) were negative Potassium dichromate was the commonest sensitizer with 16%

patients testing positive for it.

Interpretation and conclusion: Patch testing is a very useful procedure for hand eczema. Association of the morphological patterns and the allergens is not possible.

The Indian standard series is useful.

Key words: hand eczema, patch testing