

Vegetables responsible for contact dermatitis of the hands, Syamalendra M. Sinha, Jagjit S. Pasricha, Ramesh C. Sharma et al (Dept Dermato-Venereol and Pharmacol, A I I M S, New Delhi) Arch Dermatol, 113 : 776, 1977.

Fifty-three patients having contact dermatitis on the fingertips showed positive patch tests with several vegetables, the commonest being garlic, onion, tomato and carrot in that order of frequency. Of several preparations, made from garlic, onion, tomato and carrot, the juices used as such gave the maximum number of positive patch test reactions. Lyophilization of the juices led to false-negative patch tests in some cases. Patch tests in the controls were positive in some cases but these were probably cases of latent hypersensitivity, because some of them, like the patients, showed positive reactions even with the diluted juices. The antigens in garlic and onion were extractable in water, ether, acetone or alcohol and were also present in the essential oils of these vegetables. Infrared spectra of the essential oils of garlic and onion were similar and showed straight chain acids, esters and methylene groups. Clinically, there was no suggestion of cross-sensitivity between onion and garlic.

Skin eruption caused by ethambutol, Jagjit S. Pasricha and Amrinder J Kanwar (Dept Dermato-Venereol, A I I M S, New Delhi) Arch Dermatol, 113 : 1122, 1977.

A case of skin eruption caused by ethambutol is reported. The need for confirmation of a suspected drug reaction by a provocation test is stressed.

Exfoliative dermatitis associated with pulmonary tuberculosis (A case report), T. R. Kapur and S. N. Misra, (Classified specialist, Derm & Ven and Med, Mil Hosp, Pathankot) Indian Med Gaz, 112 : 33, 1978.

A case of exfoliative dermatitis in an old man is discussed who did not improve with systemic corticosteroids. He developed pulmonary tuberculosis while on corticosteroids therapy and his lesions subsided with anti-tubercular therapy and corticosteroids. Latent pulmonary tuberculosis may also be one of the causes of exfoliative dermatitis.