

## CONTACT DERMATITIS DUE TO NICKEL STARTING AT THE AGE OF ONE YEAR (Case report)

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### Summary

The case of a child developing contact dermatitis due to nickel in the bangles at the age of one year is being reported.

Contact dermatitis in children being uncommon<sup>1</sup>, we are reporting the case of a five-year-old girl who developed contact dermatitis due to nickel when she was one-year-old.

#### Case report

A female child started wearing metal bangles at the age of one year. Fifteen days later, she developed itchy papular lesions on the wrists, distal third of both forearms and the flexor aspects of both arms. The lesions would disappear on discontinuing to wear bangles and recur on wearing bangles again.

She was first seen in the Allergy Clinic, All India Institute of Medical Sciences in April, 1979 when she was five years old and was considered to have contact dermatitis due to the metallic bangles which she was still wearing. On discontinuing to wear the bangles as instructed, the lesions subsided within a week's time. There was no recurrence.

On April 10, 1979 she was tested with various antigens and a positive reaction was observed with 5% nickel sulphate solution. To confirm the results, her patch tests were repeated

on June 20, 1979 with nickel sulphate and found to be positive again. On testing with further dilutions of the standard nickel sulphate solution, positive reactions were observed with even a 0.05% solution.

#### Discussion

Contact dermatitis due to bangles results in a very characteristic pattern which can be easily recognised. The lesions are as a rule limited to the distal half of one or both forearms, involving only those areas where the bangles move, the maximum involvement being at the wrists distally and the middle of the forearms proximally. Sometimes, a few lesions may be seen on the arms as well due to contact with the bangles during flexion of the elbow. Other sites on the body may also have lesions if the patient is exposed to nickel in other areas. The senior author (JSP) has seen four such cases, all confirmed by patch tests with 5% aqueous nickel sulphate, but the two most interesting aspects of the present case are that the clinical manifestations started at the age of one year and the patch test was positive with even 0.05% aqueous solution of nickel sulphate indicating a high degree of hypersensitivity.

#### Reference

1. Fisher AA: Contact Dermatitis, Lea and Febiger Publishers, Philadelphia, 1973.

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