



PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET: nickel

Your patch test shows that you have a contact allergy to: nickel

Synonym(s): Ni

Definition: Nickel is a silvery-grey, hard metal used in various fields of daily life and industry.

Use and occurrence:

Nickel is component of various alloys with iron (stainless steels), galvanic coating of metal tools and other objects. Nickel may be released from jewellery (finger rings, earrings, bracelets, anklets, neck-chains, pendants, etc.), wrist watches, rivet buttons, tighteners, rivets, zippers and metal marks textile rivets, coins, tokens, keys, scissors, batteries, musical instruments (metal strings, brass instruments), razors, razor blades, shavers, spectacle frames, pottery and tableware, tools, machinery parts and many other metal objects. Nickel salts are used as dyes, e.g. nickel(II) phthalocyanine. Nickel-containing stainless steel is used for surgical and dentistry instruments, dental braces, dental implants, endoprostheses (artificial hips, knees etc.), vascular stents and coils used for closure of aneurysm may also be made of alloys with nickel content.

Remarks:

The typical clinical picture of nickel allergy is eczema, however, nickel may also cause erythema-multiforme-like lesions and airborne dermatitis.

Metal objects may be tested for release of nickel ions with the dimethylglyoxime test ("nickel spot test").

The so-called "Nickel Directive", i.e. Council Directive 76/769/EEC and later EU Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 (REACH, Annex XVII, item 27) imposes limits on how much nickel may be released from body piercings and from articles intended to come into direct and prolonged contact with the skin. Therefore, the regulation covers items like jewellery (e.g. earrings, necklaces, bracelets), wrist-watches and garment appliances (rivets, zippers, etc.). The regulation does not, however, apply for common objects like coins, scissors, tools or kitchenware.

Disclaimer: Always check your products as these lists can never be complete and ingredients change.