



PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET: decyl glucoside

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

Synonym(s): decyl polyglucose, decyl polyglucoside.

Definition: Decyl glucoside belongs to a group of molecules called “alkylglucosides or glucosides”; these are products obtained by the condensation of fatty alcohols (e.g. decyl alcohol) with glucose or a glucose polymer. They are mainly used as surfactants and cleansing agents claimed to be mild for the skin.

Use and occurrence:

- Cleansing products for cosmetic use (shampoos, conditioners, shower and bath foams, facial cleansing lotions/toners, shaving creams, make-up removers, wet wipes, etc.).
- Skin care products, including moisturizers, cold creams, body lotions, hand creams, sun products and self-tanning products.
- Hair care products, including dyes, colours, mousses etc.
- Fragrance preparations and deodorants.
- Household and industrial detergents.
- Foam dressings used to treat skin ulcers (e.g. leg ulcers).
- Antiseptics (e.g. chlorhexidine-containing antiseptics, Diaseptyl® lotion).
- Food products.

Remarks:

- Cosmetic products (e.g. shampoos) often contain more than one glucoside (e.g. lauryl- and coco glucoside).
- Because glucosides are plant-derived, they are often present in so-called “natural” or “biological” skin care products.
- Because glucosides are milder cleansing agents, they can also be found in cosmetic products for babies and for patients suffering from “sensitive” or “intolerant” skin.
- Patients allergic to decyl glucoside might also react to lauryl glucoside and related glucosides (e.g. cetearyl glucoside, coco glucoside, etc.); these are called “cross-reactions”. However, isolated reactions to only one glucoside (e.g. arachidyl glucoside) may occur.
- Theoretically, patients allergic to glucosides might also react to related molecules such as “xylosides” and “methyl glucose dioleate”, although currently firm evidence is lacking.
- Decyl glucoside is also present as a stabiliser in the UV filter methylene bis-benzotriazolyl tetramethylbutylphenol (syn “Tinosorb® M”) and is often responsible for allergic skin reactions to sunscreens containing this UV filter.



- Although glucosides may be present in certain foods, it is unlikely that eating food containing these chemicals will result in allergic skin rashes.

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