



PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET: quaternium 15

Your patch test shows that you have a contact allergy to : quaternium-15

Synonym(s): (industrially used) Dowicil 200, -100 and -75, CoSept 200, Preventol D1,1-(3-chloroallyl)-3,5,7-triara-1-azonia-admanatane chloride.

Definition: Quaternium-15 is an antimicrobial and is primarily used as a preservative; it is a “formaldehyde-releaser”, meaning it releases the preservative “formaldehyde”.

Use and occurrence:

- cosmetics like hand and face creams, moisturizers (body lotions), haircare products, shampoos, conditioners, wet wipes, make-up (e.g. mascara), shaving products, talcum and body powders.
- topical pharmaceuticals, such as creams and lotions, medicated shampoos (e.g. ketoconazole shampoo), suppositories, antiseptic wet wipes.
- medically used wipes, disinfectants and gels (e.g. electroencephalography [EEG] gels).
- household detergents and cleaning agents, floor polishes and waxes, washing powders and liquids, fabric softeners.
- paints, glues and adhesives.
- liquids used in metal processing, such as cutting oils and cooling fluids.
- packing materials for foods.
- toners for photocopiers.
- woodworking industry, particleboard manufacture

Remarks:

- There are other chemicals with a name resembling “quaternium” (e.g. polyquaternium-n°), but it is only necessary to avoid quaternium-15.
- Quaternium-15 is a quaternary ammonium salt and patients allergic to it may theoretically be at risk of showing allergic skin reactions to other quaternary ammonium salts.
- In patients showing positive patch tests to quaternium-15, anti-neuromuscular blocking agents (NMBA) IgE antibodies have been observed in serum, without clear clinical relevance.
- Patients allergic to quaternium-15 are often also allergic to formaldehyde
- If you are allergic to formaldehyde, then “formaldehyde-releasers” should be avoided, including, besides quaternium-15, imidazolidinyl urea (Germall 115), diazolidinyl urea (Germal II), bromonitropropanediol (bronopol), sodium hydroxymethylglycinate, DMDM hydantoin and Grotan BK®.

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