

ALLERGIC CONTACT DERMATITIS

Itchy rashes from chemicals are a manifestation of allergic contact dermatitis. It is important to identify this allergy since the chemical which causes allergic contact dermatitis may be avoided resulting in clearing of your rash. Otherwise, if we do not find a cause for your eruption, we cannot prevent it but must be resigned to controlling it with medications.

It is necessary to see you three (3) times so that we can apply the patch tests, read them and properly interpret them. To determine whether you have an allergy to a chemical requires the application of that chemical to your skin for two (2) days with a patch test. You may experience some itching but most people have little difficulty. You will not be able to get the patch tests wet during the week of testing. After two (2) days, we will remove the patch tests and read them for the first time. A positive reaction shows redness, bumps and possibly blisters at the patch test site. We will read the patch tests again and interpret their results 1-2 days after the patches have been removed. We apply the patch tests on Monday, remove and read them on Wednesday, and read again and interpret them on Thursday or Friday. In addition to the chemicals we will be testing you to on the first visit, it is important that you bring any suspected items from work or home with you for potential patch testing. These items might include clothing, medications, plants, cosmetics or material you come in contact with at work such as cutting oils.

It is important that you not be taking any cortisone medications by mouth (such as prednisone) or injection within seven (7) days prior to your patch testing. In addition, it is important that you not apply any cortisone containing creams or ointments to your back within a week preceding your patch testing.

If you have any questions or concerns, call your doctor at (717) 531-6820.

BILLING INFORMATION FOR PATCH TESTING:

You will be billed for physician's services each day. On Monday, you will be billed for a complex visit or consultation because the doctors spend time reviewing your history and doing a skin examination to determine what testing needs to be done.

The Wednesday visit is billed as a brief visit when the patches are removed. If you have any positive tests, exposure lists to those allergens are given to you to help find those chemicals in your environment.

On Thursday or Friday, the tests are reread, a diagnosis is made, and the course of action is determined and reviewed with you. Depending on the complexity, this may be a middle to high level charge.

The billing for the patch testing is calculated to cover the cost of staff, supplies and allergens which come on a hospital bill. Therefore, you will be receiving three professional visit charges and one hospital charge.

If you have any questions regarding your bills, please call (717) 531-5069.

For more information please visit our website: www.pennstatehershey.org/web/dermatology/home and click on Health Information Library.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your provider at the location you were treated.
Hershey Medical Center, UPC I, Suite 100 (717) 531-6820 or Nyes Road, (717) 657-4045.
Penn State Hershey Medical Group, Colonnade Building (814)272-4445.

