

Summary

Background

The frequency of allergic contact dermatitis in children is not as negligible as had been originally thought. During the last decades, many reports have been published abroad concerning allergic contact dermatitis in children. However, the data about the Czech Republic were lacking.

Aim of study

The aim of the study was to determine the frequency of contact sensitization to the allergens of European baseline series in unselected child population.

Material and Methods

A group of 236 unselected schoolchildren aged between 6 and 16 years were patch tested with European baseline series in the years 2005 - 2006. Patch tests were evaluated in 218 (114 boys, 104 girls) according to the criteria of International Contact Dermatitis Research Group.

Results

One or more positive reactions had 67 children (30.7%). The top allergens in children were nickel sulfate, neomycin sulfate, potassium dichromate, cobalt chloride, *Myroxylon pereirae resin* (balsam of Peru) and fragrance mix I.

Conclusion

Results of patch tests in unselected set of Czech children are not very satisfactory. They indicate that the incidence of contact hypersensitivity in children is relatively frequent. It appears that the patch tests in the Czech Republic are not carried out on all children in whom they should be performed. However, it is a safe investigation method in childhood and there is not necessary to worry about. Early detection of contact sensitization may prevent further development of the disease. The method also allows a monitoring of response to specific allergens in the child population and reflects the presence of allergens to which children are exposed.

Key words: contact sensitization, unselected child population, patch testing, the most frequent allergens

