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Titel des Beitrags:
Allergic contact dermatitis in children: which factors are relevant? (review of
the literature).

Abstract:
Allergic contact dermatitis (ACD) in children is increasing. Sensitization to
contact allergens can start in early infancy. The epidermal barrier is
crucial for the development of sensitization and elicitation of ACD.
Factors that may influence the onset of sensitization in children are atopic
dermatitis, skin barrier defects and intense or repetitive contact with
allergens. Topical treatment of ACD is associated with cutaneous
sensitization, although the prevalence is not high. ACD because of haptens
in shoes or shin guards should be considered in cases of persistent foot eruptions or sharply defined dermatitis on the lower legs. Clinical
polymorphism of contact dermatitis to clothing may cause difficulties in
diagnosing textile dermatitis. Toys are another potentially source of hapten exposure in children, especially from toy-cosmetic products such as
perfumes, lipstick and eye shadow. The most frequent contact allergens in
children are metals, fragrances, preservatives, neomycin, rubber
chemicals and more recently also colourings. It is very important to
remember that ACD in young children is not rare, and should always be
considered when children with
recalcitrant eczema are encountered. Children should be patch-tested with a selection of allergens having the highest proportion of positive, relevant patch test reactions. The allergen exposure pattern differs between age groups and adolescents may also be exposed to occupational allergens. The purpose of this review is to alert the paediatrician and dermatologist of the frequency of ACD in young children and of the importance of performing patch tests in every case of chronic recurrent or therapy-resistant eczema in children.

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