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CORRESPONDENCE

PERIOPERATIVE MEDICINE

Micropore[™] adhesive plaster and contact dermatitis: A rare incidence

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Allergic contact dermatitis is an immune reaction to an allergen. Allergy to various surgical dressings and catheters have been reported earlier.1 There are no reports on allergic reaction to MicroporeTM at epidural insertion site. We report an adverse skin reaction resulting from the application of Micropore[™] frequently used to secure perineural catheters.²

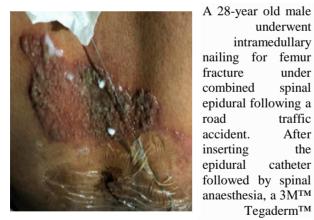


Figure 1: Allergic contact dermatitis at epidural catheter fixation site

catheter along with Micropore[™] surgical tape. The patient had no complaints intraoperatively and during follow-up. Next day, he complained of itching at the site; and we observed redness around the lumbar region with small vesicles (Figure 1). Epidural catheter was removed and the patient was shifted on oral analgesics. The case was diagnosed as irritant contact dermatitis by the

dermatologist for which topical steroid (clobestol propionate 0.5%) was advised twice daily. A viral culture of the vesicles was found to be negative for herpes simplex virus. The lesion eventually healed completely and the patient was discharged on the 6th day following surgery.

Tegaderm[™], Micropore[™] or Transpore[™] are frequently used for fixation of the epidural catheters. Anesthesiologists need to be aware of the risks associated with these common skin adhesives films or tapes. Regular follow up with early diagnosis and prompt management can help in rapid resolution.

Also, large transparent tegaderms to secure the whole catheter can be made, so that these skin reactions be

minimised. Though reports of contact dermatitis with micropore are present but are extremely rare.³

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