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# Dermatitis – diff. diagnosis I

## eczema x dermatitis

- Allergic contact dermatitis
- Irritant contact dermatitis
- Microbial eczema
- Seborrheic dermatitis

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- Atopic dermatitis

# 1. Allergic contact dermatitis

5 – 15% of all dermatoses

Prevalence – 1,5-3%

Incidence – 5-10 / 1000 per year

Hypersensitive reaction of the  
IVth type according to Coombs & Gell

# Allergic contact dermatitis

contact allergens – molecules smaller than 500 D – *penetration through the skin barrier*

binding of the molecule – hapten - to pt's own proteins in the skin forms an antigen – with the molecular weight at least 5000 D

- the conjugation of haptens with proteins happens in LC (antigen presenting cells)

# Allergic contact dermatitis

**Induction phase** [penetration of allergen through stratum corneum] [interaction with APC] [phagocytosis of antigen]

subsequent expression of antigen on the surface of LC [migration to regional lymphatic nodes and presentation of the antigen to naive T-lymphocytes]

# Allergic contact dermatitis

## Elicitation phase – in case of sensitization

■ proliferation of specific clone of effector T-lymphocytes

T-lymphotocytes ■ migration to the site of allergen penetration

■ cytotoxic effect of T-lymphocytes releasing cytokines leading to inflammation

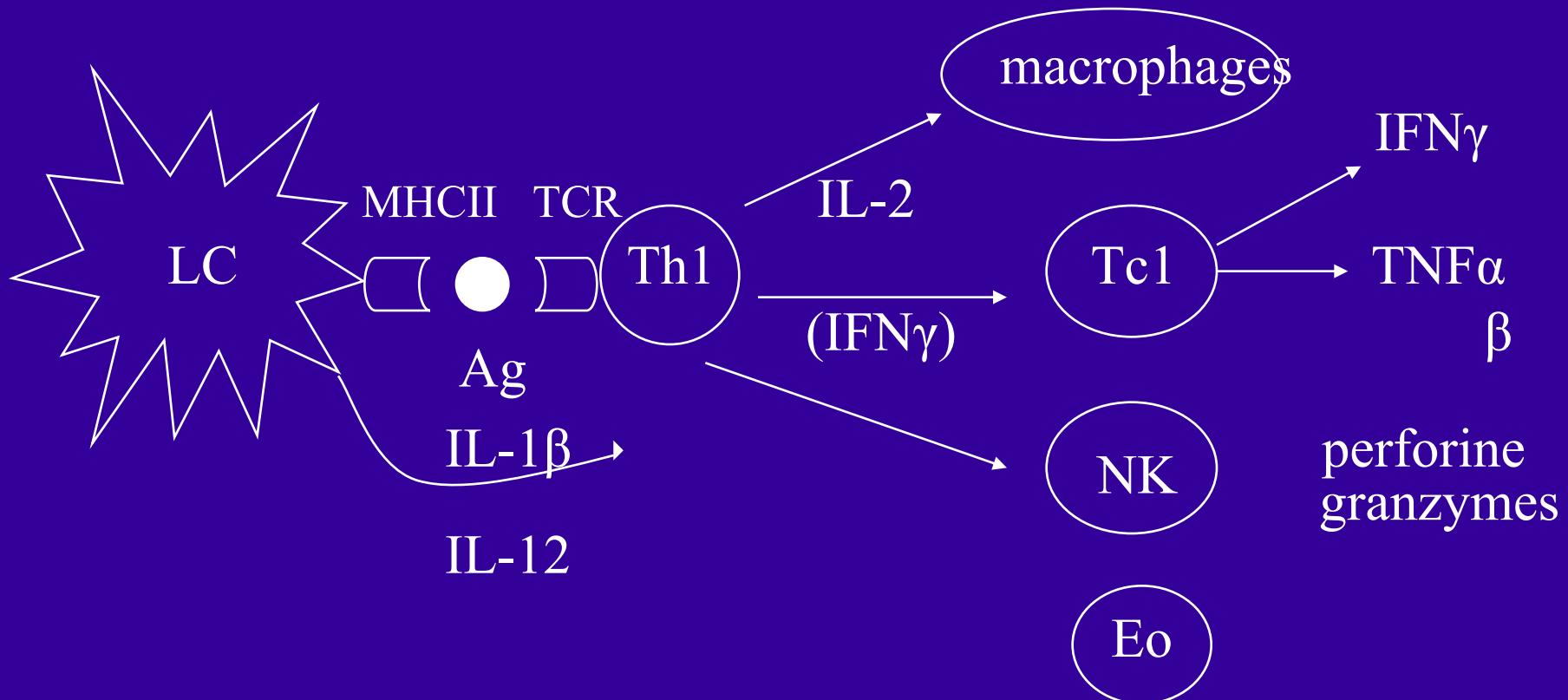
→ **allergic contact dermatitis**

**Shortest time to sensitization: 5-14 days**

migration of LC to regional LN takes about 5-24 hours

proliferation of T-lymphocytes: 5-10 days

- Patophysiology of the late-type hypersensitivity



# Allergic contact dermatitis

## Factors influencing the ease of sensitisation:

- ◆ **Chemical structure of allergens**
- ◆ **Patient** – skin barrier status (fissures, maceration)  
localisation (eyelids x soles)  
age

- **Duration of hypersensitivity**
  - survival time of memory T-lymphocytes
  - character of allergens

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• **European Standard Series**

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- Potassium dichromate 0,5 % pet.
- Neomycin sulphate 20 % pet.
- Thiuram mix 1% pet.
- Paraphenylenediamine 1% pet.
- Cobalt chloride 1% pet.
- Caine mix III 10% pet
- Formaldehyde 1% aq.
- Colophony 20% pet.
- Hydroxyethylmethacrylate 2% pet.
- Balsam of Peru 25 % pet.
- N-isopropyl-N-phenyl-4-phenylenediamine 0,1% pet.
- Wool alcohols 20% pet.
- Mercapto mix 2% pet.
- Epoxy resin 1% pet.
- Paraben mix 16% pet.

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• European Standard Series

- P -4-t- butylphenol formaldehyde resin 1% pet.
- Fragrance mix 8% pet.
- Quaternium 15 1% pet.
- Nickel sulphate 5% pet.
- Kathon CG 0,01% aq.
- Mercaptobenzothiazole %pet.
- Sesquiterpenlactone mix 0,1% pet.
- Propolis 10% pet.
- Tixocortol-21-pivalate 0,1% pet.
- Budesonide 0,01% pet.
- Methyldibromoglutaronitrile (1,2-dibromo-2,4-dicyanobutane)
- Fragrance II mix 14% pet.
- Lyral 5% pet.
- Methylisothiazolinone 0,2% aq.
- Textile dye mix 6,6% pet.

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Most common contact allergens DVK

(2019)

1. nickel sulphate	16,1%
2. balzam of Peru	9,3%
3. Kathon	6,8
4. methylisothiazolinone	5,7%
5. epoxide resin	5,3%
6. PPD	5,0%
textile dye mix	5,0%
fragrance mix I	5,0%
cobalt chloride	5,0%
10. propolis	3,9%



Metal glasses



Metal ring

Allergic contact dermatitis – nickel



Metal watch



Metal button



Allergic contact dermatitis from cobalt  
& nickel - coupled allergy





ACD to chromium from leather boots



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# Kathon CG

Preservative, mixture of CMI and MI 3:1

- **cosmetics and other toiletries** (hair cosmetics, soaps, refreshing towels, toilet paper)  
since 2015 in the EU allowed only in cosmetic products for short-term skin contact –rinse off, concentration up to 15 ppm
- **household preparations** (washing and cleaning preparations, polishes)
- **industry** (adhesives, water-based paints, latex paints, cooling fluids etc. - there is no concentration limitation!)

Possibility of group hypersensitivity with isothiazoline derivatives used in industry - benzisothiazolinone, octylisothiazolinone



Allergic contact dermatitis – **Kathon CG** (from cosmetic preparations), and to **methylizothiazolinone**, **octylizothiazolinone**



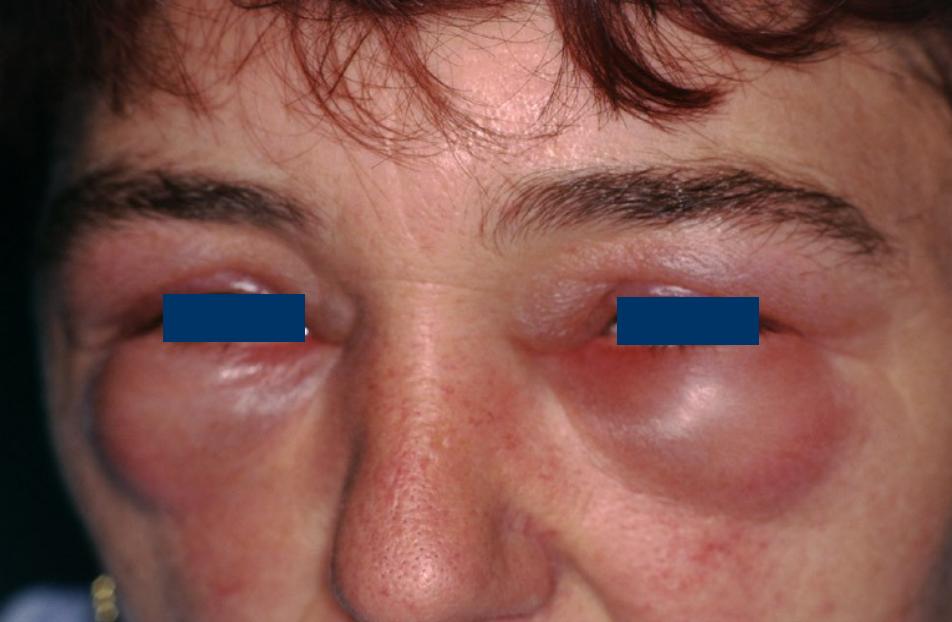
Tonometer, stethoscope  
(nurse)



ACD - IPPD, antioxydant  
of black rubber



Rubber boot



ACD to PPD from hair dyes



# Fragrances

## Fragrance mix I

- ❖ Cinnamic aldehyde
- ❖ Cinnamic alcohol
- ❖  4-allyl-cinnamic aldehyde
- ❖ Eugenol
- ❖ Isoeugenol
- ❖ Geraniol
- ❖ Hydroxycitronellal
- ❖ Oak moss absolute (Akranorin)  
Sorbitan sesquioleate  
(emulgator)

**Frequency of sensitization:**

worldwide

4,7-13,3%



ACD to fragrance (eau de toilette)





**Allergic contact  
dermatitis –  
fragrance –  
cosmetic cream**



**Patch tests –  
contact allergy to  
fragrance and  
cinnamic alcohol**

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# Fragrances

## Fragrance mix II

**Lyral, Citral, Farnesol, Citronellol,  
hexyl cinnamic aldehyde, Coumarine**

## Fragrance mix III

**Jasmine absolute, Amylcinnamaldehyde , Musk ketone, Sandalwood oil  
Musk moskene , Ylang-ylang , Cananga oil , Vanillin 10,0 %, Jasmine  
synthetic , Geranium oil Bourbon, Musk xylene, Lavander absolute,  
Rose oil , Narcissus absolute , Methyl anthranilate , Benzyl salicylate,  
Benzyl alcohol**

## Chemical similarities with: Balsam of Peru

**Propolis  
Colophony**

**Shared natural substances (cinnamic aldehyde, alcohol, acid, eugenol...)**

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# • Shared components in natural products

## Balsam of peru

- cinnamic alcohol
- cinnamic aldehyde
- cinnamic acid
- eugenol
- isoeugenol
- PABA
- benzylbenzoát
- benzaldehyd
- benzylalcohol
- colophony
- limonen
- vanillin

## Fragrance-mix I:

- cinnamic alcohol
- cinnamic aldehyde
- cinnamic acid
- eugenol
- Isoeugenol

- $\alpha$ -amylcinnamoc aldehyde
- hydroxycitronellal
- geraniol
- oak moos absolute

## Propolis:

- Cinnamic alcohol
- Cinnamic acid
- Vanillin

- Caffeic acid
- 3-hydroxy-cinnamic acid
- 3-methoxy cinnamic acid
- Dimethyl caffeic acid

## Tea tree oil:

- terpinens
- d-limonen
- $\alpha$ -pinen
- 1,8-cineol
- $\delta$ -3-caren



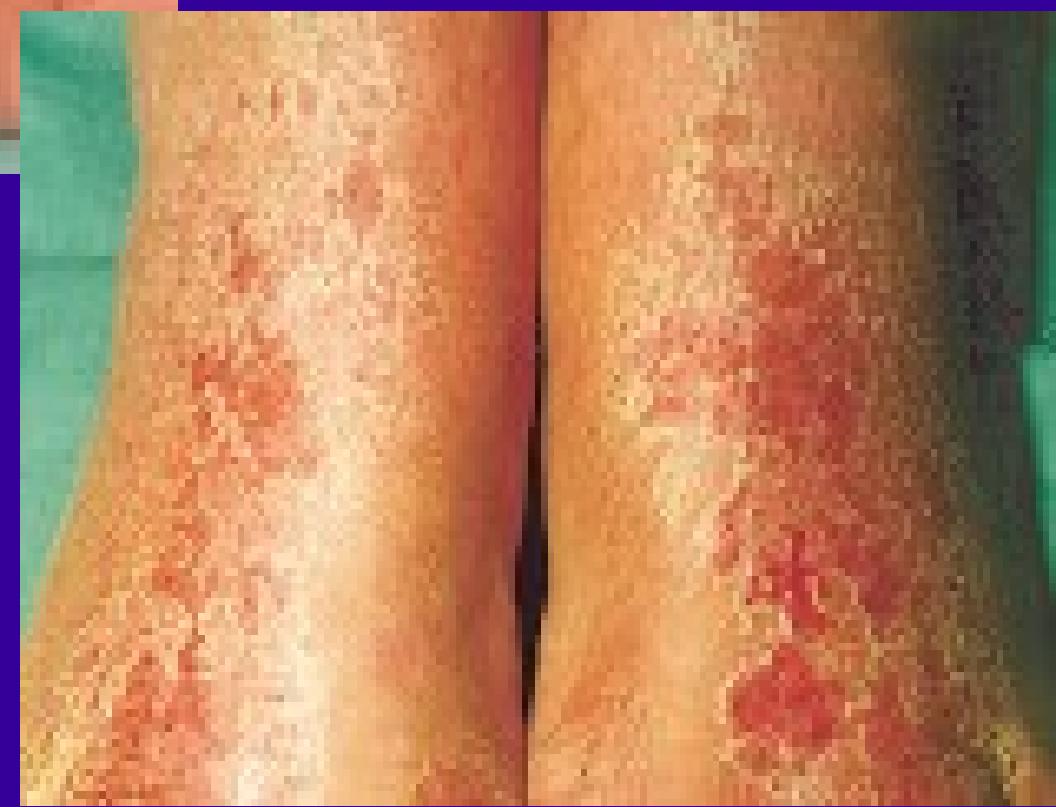
Eczema contactum – propolis,  
balsam of Peru  $\alpha$ -amyl-cinnamic  
aldehyde, colophony



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# Propolis

- natural product – a resinous mixture that honey bees collect from tree buds, sap flows, or other botanical sources.
- The chemical composition of propolis varies depending on season, bee species and geographic location.
- Propolis has approximately **50 constituents**, primarily resins and vegetable balsams (50%), waxes (30%), essential oils (10%), and pollen (5%).
- Propolis has antibacterial, fungicidal, antipruritic and antiinflammatory effects and promotes epithelisation



## Allergic contact dermatitis– **propolis** (folk medicine preparations)

Allergic contact  
dermatitis—  
**propolis** (folk medicine  
preparations)



# Corticosteroids

## A - type Hydrocortisone:

D ring unsubstituted, C 20, C 21  
unsubstituted or C 17, C 21  
short chain (acetates or esters),  
possibly, C 21, thioester

## B - type Triamcinolone acetonide:

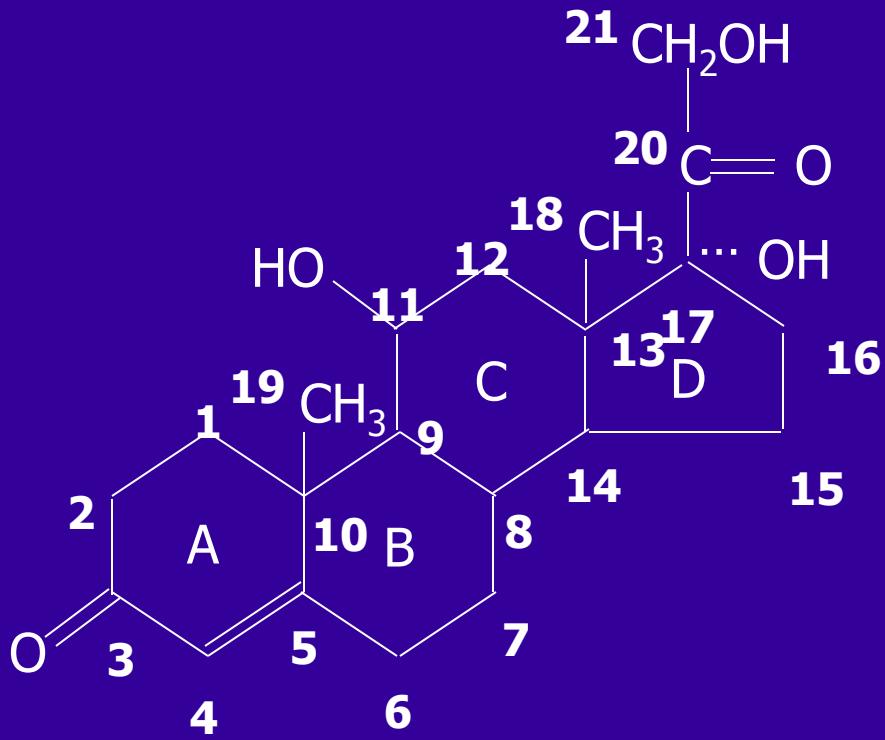
C 16, C 17 cis-ketal structure or  
diol structure

## C - type Bethametasone:

C 16 methyl substitution

## D - type Hydrocortisone butyrate:

C 17, and / or C 21 long ester  
chains, possibly, C 16 methyl  
substitution





Patch test–  
contact  
allergy to  
**Budesonide**

**Budesonide** - Apulein ung, crm, liq, Pulmicort aer inh,  
Pulmicort, Turbuhaler plv inh, Rhinocort spr nas

Budesonid 1%

sc. 2%

Budesonido, 0,025%

150, sc. 1%

Hydrocortison

Betamethaseni dipropio, 0,02

72h.

Rhinocort spray 72h.



Drug eruption in patient sensitized to topical CS after systemic exposure to - **Prednisone** tbl



# „new“ allergens

**Ketoprophene – nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drug  
derivative of propionic acid**

**Ketoprophene – topical**

Fastum

Profenid gel

Ketonal crm

and others

**systemic**

Ketoprofen tbl,sup

Ketonal cap,sup amp i.m.

Ketonal forte tbl

Ketonal ret tbl

Profenid cap,tob,sup amp

Profenid 100 mg pro inf

Toprec tbl

Allergy potenciated by sun exposure – photocontact allergy



Photocontact allergy - ketoprofene -  
generalizace (Fastum gel)



Photocontact allergy - ketoprofene  
(Fastum gel)



Patch test -  
alergická reakce  
na Fastum gel



Patch test -  
alergická reakce na  
ketoprofene

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# Acrylates

- **Industry:** plastics, plexiglass, synthetic rubber, insulating materials, plasters, acrylic floors, adhesives, UV-cured paints, paints  
**Dentistry:** composite fillings, orthodontic appliances  
**Bone cement:** endoprostheses, osteosynthesis  
**Medical devices:** spectacle frames, patches, hearing aids, insulin pumps...
- **Cosmetic industry:** cosmetic industry  
acrylic nails, artificial eyelash adhesives

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# Acrylates

- Monomers - high sensitizing potential  
Polymers (cured) do not sensitize  
but: risk of sensitization by contact with monomers created by secondary depolymerisation



# Tea Tree Oil

**source:** leaves of the tea tree (*Melaleuca alternifolia*)

**occurrence:** Australia, Spain, Portugal

**use:** folk /traditional/ medicine

**effects:** antiseptic

antifungal

antibacterial

# Components of Tea Tree Oil

## Mixture of mono and sesquiterpens

- ❖ Terpinen-4-ol 30-45%
- ❖ Terpinen 10-28%
- ❖ Terpinen 5-13%
- ❖ Terpineol 1,5-8%
- ❖ Terpinolen 1,5-5%
- ❖ Pinen 1-6%
- ❖ Cymene 0,5-12%
- ❖ d-Limonen 0,5-4%
- ❖ 1,8 Cineol 0-15%
- ❖ Cadinen stopa-8%
- ❖ Aromadendren stopa-7%
- ❖ Sabinen stopa-3,5%
- ❖ Globulol stopa-3%
- ❖ Viridiflorol stopa-1,5%
- ❖  $\beta$ -Caren stopa-0,2%



Allergic contact dermatitis – **tea tree oil**  
(cosmetic preparations)



**Patch tests –  
contact allergy to  
tea tree oil and  
other etheric oils**

# Plant extracts family of Compositae

**main allergens - sesquiterpenolaktons**

Extr. Chamomillae - chamomile

Extr. Calendulae - marigold

Extr. Arnicae - arnica

others:

Sunflower - *Helianthus annuus*,

Chrysanthemum, Cynia, Astra etc.



**ACD to marigold (extr. Calendulae)**

**ACD to marigold in the terrain of atopic dermatitis**



Eczema contactum -  
chloramphenicol, extr.  
**Chamomillae**



Eczema atopicum et  
contactum - extr.  
**Chamomillae**



Eczema contactum -  
Neomycin, extr.  
**Chamomillae**

## 2. Irritant contact dermatitis

- Nonallergic reaction
- Dose dependent
- Exposition to exogenous more or less toxic agent
- More common than allergic contact dermatitis

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# Irritant contact dermatitis

Causes:

- **chemical agents:**
  - alkaline & acid solutions
  - Organic solvents (toluene...)
  - Detergents
  - Disinfectants
  - Food stuffs (fruit acids, mustard...)
  - Even water
- **physical agents:** UV radiation, heat, cold, mechanical factors

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# Clinical picture

- Lesion sharply bordered
- Intensity depends on the toxicity of the substance  
(more toxic.. more acute reaction)
- Toxic agents:

redness – swelling - blisters - necrosis

- Less toxic agents – chronic ICD  
Redness, scales, lichenification, hyperkeratosis

# Acute ICD



# Chronic ICD



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# Treatment of ACD & ICD

## Topical corticosteroids

### Class I - low potency CS

HCT acetate (HCT ung.), DXM acetate (DXM crm.)

### Class II mid-potent CS

HCT butyrate (Locoid crm., lotio), TMC acetonid (TMC crm.), alclomethason (Afloderm crm, ung.)

prednikarbate (Dermatop crm., ung.)

methylprednisolon aceponate (Advantan crm.)

### Class III - potent CS

betamethasone dipropionate (Beloderm,Diprosone crm.)

fluocinolone acetonide ( Gelargin gel,ung.)

momethason furoate ( Elocosan crm., ung., lotio)

### Class IV – very potent CS

clobetasol propionate (Dermovate crm., ung)

## Antihistamines, systemic corticosteroids – short courses

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### **3. Microbial eczema**

Allergy of IVth type to bacterial allergens –  
mostly to Staph. aureus

appears mostly secondary:

in pyodermas, scabies, atopic dermatitis, ICD  
around fistulas, stomias, in varicous terrain on legs  
around sites of inflammation (chronic rhinitis, otitis)

variant: **nummular dermatitis** (coin shaped  
patches and/or plaques) usually in patients with  
focal bacterial infection (tooth granuloma, chronic  
tonsillitis, chronic urogenital infections etc.



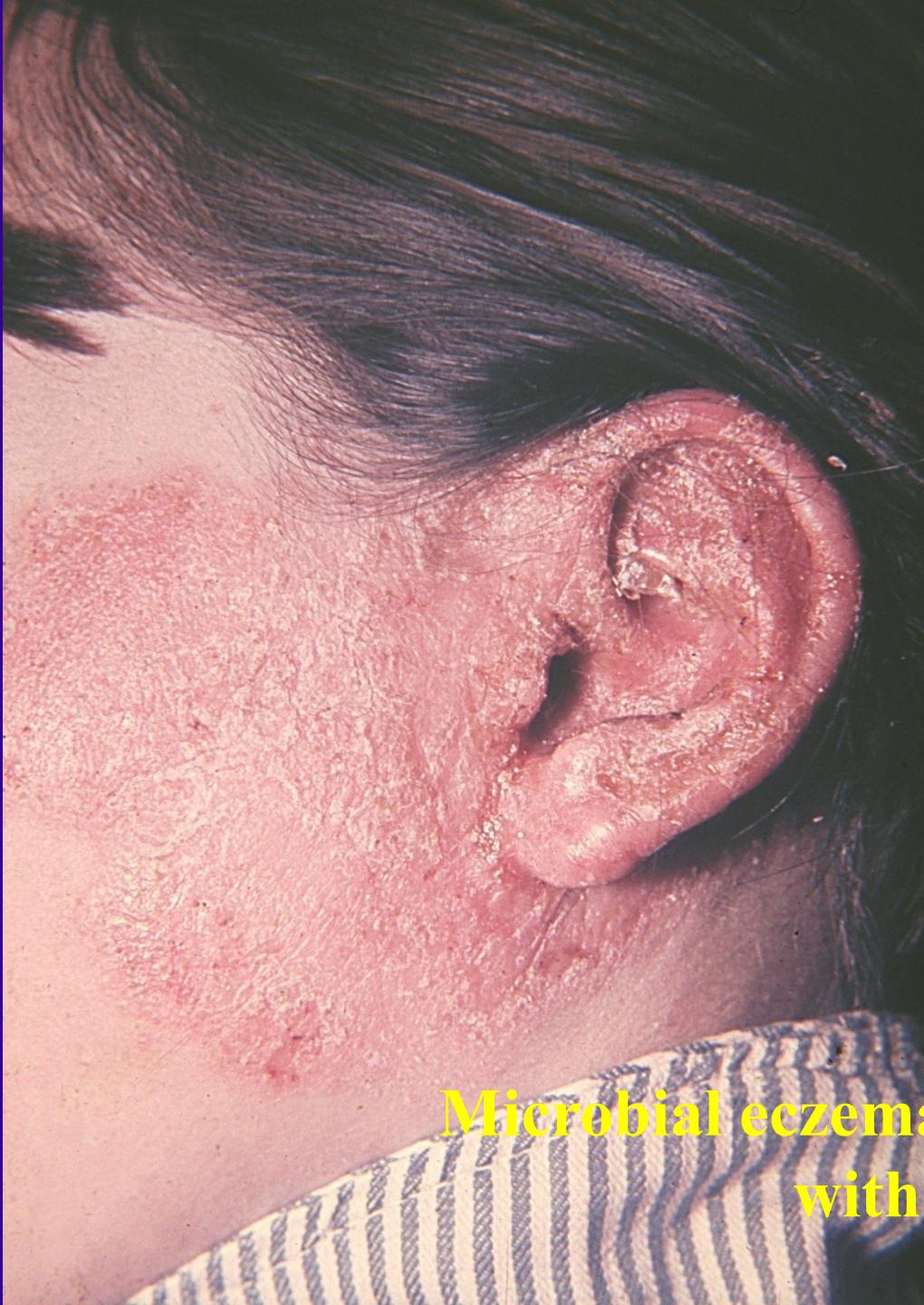
**Microbial eczema**



**Microbial eczema**



**Microbial eczema in patients with CVI  
= varicous eczema**



**Microbial eczema in a patient  
with chronic otitis**



**Microbial eczema in a patient  
with scabies**

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# Treatment of microbial eczema

Acute phase:

- Drying compresses
- Topical zinc preparations
- Topical corticosteroids in lotion base

Subacute and chronic phase:

- ATB paste, endiaron paste, tar preparations
- Combination with topical CS (TMC-E, Belogent, Fucicort)

Systemic ATBs

# 4. Seborrheic dermatitis

- localisation: seborrheic predilection sites
- etiology: genetic predisposition, hormonal status  
dysseborrhea – altered composition of sebum  
*Malassezia* sp. = pityrosporon ovale  
immunodeficiency - AIDS  
depletion of zinc, comorbidities

Clinical picture: erythematous scaly lesions

Typical sites: scalp, eyebrows, nasolabial folds,  
midchest region, around umbilicus, groins & axillae

- Subjective complaints: itching, burning





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# Treatment of seborrheic dermatitis

- Topical imidazole antifungals + topical corticosteroids
- Topical immunomodulators (off label)
- Topical imidazole antifungals
- Topical preparation with zinc
- zinc supplementation
- Systemic antifungals