



Contact Dermatitis

Contact dermatitis is a delayed skin reaction to a sensitizing agent or contact irritant which can occur over time and increase with each exposure.

What is it?

Your skin is one of the first places where allergies appear. In people who have skin allergies, the immune system over reacts to normally harmless substances that come in direct contact with the skin. These substances are called allergens.

Irritant Contact Dermatitis

This is a common, non-allergic condition, most frequently seen on the hands. Skin loses its protective layer causing dryness, cracking and scaling. Can be seen:

- During winter
- In people that use strong cleaning products
- In workers in the food and medical professions

Allergic Contact Dermatitis

This condition develops after repeated exposure to an allergen and is caused by T-cells. T-cells react in a delayed response causing symptoms to occur days after exposure.

Systemic contact dermatitis (whole body)

This type of contact dermatitis can occur as a result of medications, chemicals and foods. In some people certain fragrances can cause this type of reaction. Patients that take combinations of medications for many months/years can suddenly develop this type of dermatitis.