

PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

ALUMINUM HYDROXIDE

(A-038)

Your patch testing results indicate that you have a contact allergy to **ALUMINUM HYDROXIDE**. It is important that you familiarize yourself with this chemical and take steps to avoid coming in contact with it.

What is **ALUMINUM HYDROXIDE** and where is it found?

Most of this chemical is converted to aluminium oxide (alumina) that is used in the manufacture of aluminium metal.

The chemical is also used as a fire retardant filler, producing water vapor and smoke suppressant for polymer applications. The gel form of the chemical is applied to make aluminium salts as flocculants in water purification. The substance is also used as an antacid, to treat/control, or manage high levels of phosphate in the body. In addition it is also used with a low phosphate diet to prevent the formation of phosphate urinary stones. It can also be found in personal care products. Aluminum can in different forms be found in dental implants.

Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

What else is **ALUMINUM HYDROXIDE** called?

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

Aluminic acid, Aluminic hydroxide, Aluminium(III) hydroxide, Aluminium hydroxide, Hydrated alumina, Orthoaluminic acid, Gibbsite, Hydrargillite, Algeldrate, Alu-Cap, Aludrox, Gaviscon, Pepsamar.

This may not be a complete list as manufacturers introduce and delete chemicals from their product lines.

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP MANAGE YOUR CONTACT ALLERGY

- **Be vigilant... read the product label.** Always take the time to read the ingredient listing on product packages. This should be your first step each time you purchase a product as manufacturers sometimes change product ingredients. If you have any concerns ask your pharmacist or your doctor.
- **Test the product first.** If you have purchased a new product you should test it on a small skin area to see if you get a reaction before using the product on larger skin areas.
- **Advise people you obtain services from of your contact allergy.** This should include people like your pharmacist, doctor, hairdresser, florist, veterinarian, etc.
- **Inform your employer if the source of your contact allergy is work related.** You should identify the specific source of the chemical and take the necessary steps to avoid further exposure. Protective wear may be adequate or you may need to make a change in your work activities. Both you and your employer benefit when the cause of your occupational dermatitis is eliminated.

- **"Google" it.** The internet is an excellent source of ingredient information that can be searched by product, by company and by specific chemical. Some helpful independent internet links include: **www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsheets.html** (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; alphabetic list) **www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsbj.html** (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; subject list) **www.cosmeticsinfo.org** (Cosmetic Industry Category Ingredient Database) **www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com** (information on all S.C. Johnson product ingredients)

If you have any future contact dermatitis concerns or questions, please call the doctor's office.

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