

## PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

### Mercury(II)chloride

(M-004)

Your patch testing results indicate that you have a contact allergy to [Mercury\(II\)chloride](#). It is important that you familiarize yourself with this chemical and take steps to avoid coming in contact with it.

#### What is [Mercury\(II\)chloride](#) and where is it found?

This chemical is used as a topical antiseptic and a disinfectant. It is used in insecticides, preservatives and batteries. It is also used in dental material, mascara, as well as in some over-the-counter drugs like stimulant laxatives, diaper- rash ointment, eye drops and nasal sprays. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

#### What else is [Mercury\(II\)chloride](#) called?

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

*Bichloride of Mercury, Mercuric Chloride, Mercury chloride (2), Corrosive Sublimate, Mercury Perchloride, Perchloride of Mercury, Corrosive mercury chloride, Mercury (II) Chloride, Sublimate, Dichloromercury, Mercury chloride, TL 898 Mercuric Bichloride*

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](http://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](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsbj.html)** (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; subject list) **[www.cosmeticsinfo.org](http://www.cosmeticsinfo.org)** (Cosmetic Industry Category Ingredient Database) **[www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com](http://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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