

## PATIENT INFORMATION SHEET

### Benzocaine

(B-004)

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

#### What is **Benzocaine** and where is it found?

Benzocaine is a local anesthetic used in a vast array of over-the-counter preparations including hemorrhoidal products, cold and cough syrups, throat lozenges, poison ivy and other anti-itch treatments, burn remedies, teething powders and canker sore preparations. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

#### What else is **Benzocaine** called?

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

*4-Aminobenzoic acid ethyl ester, Anesthesin, Ethyl PABA, 4-carbethoxyaniline, Auralgan Otic, Ethyl-paminobenzoate Orthesin, Aethoform, Benzoic acid, p-Aminobenzoic acid ethyl ester, Americaine, Cepacaine, Parathesin, Anbesol, Ethyl 4-Aminobenzoate, Anesthone, Ethyl aminobenzoate*

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/factssubj.html](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factssubj.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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