



Contact Dermatitis with a Nylon Non-Invasive Blood Pressure Cuff after Elective Surgery

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A 62-year-old asthmatic female patient underwent staging laparotomy for carcinoma endometrium under general anaesthesia. In the post-anaesthesia care unit, a blood pressure cuff (Mindray BeneView T5, Shenzhen Mindray, China) made of nylon was applied. After removing the cuff, multiple vesicles filled with turbid fluid present on an ill-defined erythematous plaque on her upper arm (Figure 1) were observed, for which dermatology consultation was performed, and she was diagnosed with contact dermatitis.

Contact dermatitis is an inflammatory skin condition that can be caused by cutaneous interaction with chemical, biological or physical agents. Risk factors include extrinsic factors such as occupational exposure and intrinsic factors such as Asian skin, female sex, older age and history of atopic dermatitis. Park et al. (1) reported a similar case in which the patient eventually recovered following treatment with antihistamines and topical steroid cream. Milanesi et al. (2) also described a similar condition where they reported that the allergen was N-isopropyl-N-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine. Allergic reactions can occur with routinely used equipment and materials during the peri-operative period. Special precaution should be maintained in patients with a history of allergic reactions or asthma. Treatment options for this condition include topical steroids, antihistamines and oral steroids. Patients can be tested for specific allergens using the skin patch test.

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Figure 1. Multiple vesicles filled with turbid fluid present on an ill-defined erythematous plaque