Allergic contact dermatitis caused by cobalt in leather – clinical cases

In 2013, we raised suspicion that cobalt in leather could be responsible for hitherto unrecognized cases of allergic contact dermatitis. We saw a patient sensitized only to cobalt with clear long-term exposure to cobalt from a leather sofa, and observed resolution of dermatitis following avoidance [1]. In 2014, we performed a questionnaire study, which showed a positive and significant association between cobalt allergy and a history of dermatitis caused by non-occupational exposure to leather articles [2]. Recently, we published an article showing high amounts of cobalt in selected leather swatches from furniture [3]. Here, we report 2 additional cases of allergic cobalt dermatitis caused by consumer leather exposure, to increase awareness about this topic.

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