

# 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.

## **i** 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.

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

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

*4-Aminobenzoic acid ethyl ester*

*4-carbethoxyaniline*

*Aethoform*

*Americaine*

*Anbesol*

*Anesthone*

*Anesthesin*

*Auralgan Otic*

*Benzoic acid*

*Cepacaine*

*Ethyl 4-Aminobenzoate*

*Ethyl aminobenzoateE*

*Ethyl PABA*

*Ethyl-paminobenzoate Orthesin*

*p-Aminobenzoic acid ethyl ester*

*Parathesin*

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.