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
- 4-carbethoxyaniline
- Aethoform
- Americaine
- Anbesol
- Anesthesin
- Auralgan Otic
- Benzoic acid
- Ethyl 4-Aminobenzoate
- Ethyl aminobenzoate
- Ethyl PABA
- Ethyl-paminobenzoate Orthesin
- 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.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.