



## Patient Information Leaflet

### Thiuram mix

You are allergic to thiuram. This means that you should avoid contact with this substance in future.

Thiurams are rubber 'accelerators' (i.e. chemicals used to speed up polymerisation when producing rubber). They are found in virtually all rubber articles e.g. rubber gloves, condoms, bandages, adhesive tapes, stockings etc. Most patients allergic to thiurams will have been sensitised by wearing rubber gloves, but in some cases it may be from shoes or insoles. Usually the rash will have been in the shape of the glove or shoe but this is not invariable and the rash may be patchy or on one side only. Other sources of exposure include rubber bandages and rubber elastic in underwear. There are also non-rubber sources of exposure.

**If gloves have been the source of sensitization**, avoid rubber gloves and instead use vinyl gloves (PVC, if these are appropriate for the task). These are widely available e.g. Synsation from Ansell Medical or Tru Touch from Becton Dickinson (01865-748844). If vinyl gloves are unsuitable, try Ansell Dermaprene (neoprene)- an MBT, thiuram, carba and rubber-free variety of glove (contains thioureas) or Becton and Dickinson Neolon (neoprene) which is MBT, thiuram, thiourea and rubber-free (contains carbamates). An alternative is Elastyren (Styrene butadiene polymer) from Hermal, Germany (00-40-72704-266) which is MBT, thiuram, thiourea and rubber-free (contains carbamates).

#### **The following medical gloves are safe:**

Glovex Neoderm (Beiersdorf Medical), Dispos-a-Glove (J&J), Tru-Touch (Maxxim Medical).

#### **Safe sterile gloves:**

Dermaprene (Ansell), Neotech (Biogel), Allergard (J&J)

**If sensitised to thiuram in shoes**, patients should wear all-leather shoes with no inner sole (like moccasins), plastic shoes or wooden clogs. If patients have difficulty acquiring shoes without rubber insoles, they should remove the insoles before wearing and replace with those made from piano felt, cork, or plastic. Old shoes tend to be more allergenic than new, as sweating leaches the thiuram out of the rubber in the shoe. Old socks contaminated with thiuram should be discarded.

#### **Some information on appropriate footwear may be available from:**

Satra Footwear Technology Centre, Satra House, Rockingham Road, Kettering NN16 9JH.

**Safe bandages in thiuram-allergic patients with leg ulcers** are those made of Viscose, Polyamide, Elastane and Cotton. Safe compression bandages are Tensopress and Setopress. Bandages with less compression that are safe are Rosidal K and Comprilan and for a tubular bandage use Tubigauz or Tubifast (not Tubigrip). For compression stockings use those made from Lycra or Nylon e.g. Duo-Med.

#### **Sources of Thiuram:**

Gloves, shoes, insoles

Rubber in underwear; swimwear

Bandages and medical devices

Renal dialysis equipment

Tyres and tubes

Plastics and putty

Agricultural fungicides and pesticides

Animal repellants

Sponges, applicators, eyelash curlers

Rubber sheets, pillows, hot water bottles

Condoms and diaphragms

Balloons, toys, rubber bands

Adhesives including those in shoes, wallpaper

Soaps and shampoos (occasionally)

Disulfiram (Antabuse) - for alcoholism

Paints