



Tape Allergy

On occasion, a patient will say they are allergic to tapes, medical tapes or sticking plasters. This is something to be cautious about if they need patch testing. Before the patient is booked in for testing, it is important that they are asked about previous problems with sticking plasters or tapes. i.e. Band aids. Therefore if intolerance is noted, a range of different patch tests can be mailed to the patient, to determine any problems with the patch tapes and which type of patch is best.

Before the patches are mailed, we suggest the different patch varieties are numbered and matched with a chart (i.e. on each patch sample assign a number which matches up with the sample list, such as below). If you don't have the types listed below, please cross out the ones that are not applicable.

1. Finn chamber
2. AllergEAZE
3. IQ Ultimate
4. IQ Chamber
5. AllergEAZE Clear

For dermatologists

A note about AllergEaze fabric style patches

The patches primarily used at the Skin and Cancer Foundation Inc. Melbourne and for Contact Allergen Bank Australia (CABA) are the AllergEaze fabric style patches.

There have been very few reported cases of allergy to these patches.

- ✓ The tape is composed of nonwoven polyester
- ✓ The individual patches are composed of pharmaceutical polyethyleneteraphthlate (PET).
- ✓ The adhesive used in the panels is an acrylic copolymer emulsion, consistent with most state of the art surgical tapes.

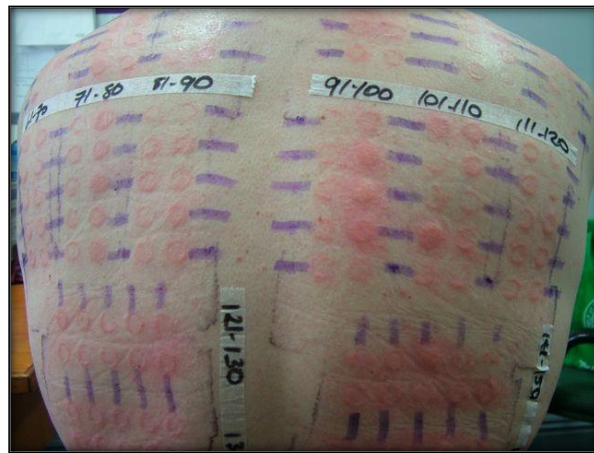
These patches generally adhere to the skin really well, also staying firmly on the skin even when there is a degree of heat and sweating.

It is important to note that on the rare occasion these patches have actually stuck to the skin too well, meaning they were stuck down very firmly and can be difficult to remove. From our experience, on the rare occasion this has happened, it appears that the individuals' skin has a tendency to be dry, scaly and often requires moisturising daily.

Post patch testing tape reaction

On occasion after the patches are removed, there can be a degree of inflammation. This can simply be redness from the patches being placed on the skin for the lengthy period of time, can also be angry back (see image below) or on the very rare occasion, may be a tape allergy.

An "Angry back" is when all areas where tests were applied become red and itchy and look like reactions; however they are not true reactions (false positives). They are a result of the skin being very excited! Hence why this condition can sometimes be called "Excited skin syndrome." When this occurs true results are extremely hard to read. This is more likely to occur when patches are applied to active areas of rash or eczema.



Example of angry back

Tape allergy is generally a reaction to the materials used in the adhesive used on the patch. An indication of this is the actual area where the patch is, is spared from redness and rash, and the skin only with the tape in contact has reacted. However this is very rare.



Tape Allergy information for patients

Since you have reported previous problems with adhesive, we have sent you a range of different patch testing tapes to see which patches are safe for you to use. The ones you have been sent have been numbered accordingly. The doctor will cross out the ones that have not been sent to you.

1. Finn chamber
2. AllergEAZE
3. IQ Ultimate
4. IQ Chamber
5. AllergEAZE Clear

Instructions

1. Carefully peel off the backing paper from each sample of tape.
2. Place the sample patch, sticky side down, onto the soft skin on the inside of your forearm about 5 cm (or 2 inches) below your elbow joint.
3. Draw a small mark on your skin, at the corners of the tape. This will help to remind you where it has been sitting (marker provided).
4. Repeat exactly the same procedure for each sample, but place it 2 cm further down your forearm.
5. Keep the area dry for 2 days, and then gently peel off the tape.
6. Check your skin after 15 minutes and telephone the dermatologist and inform them if there are any reactions. Look at the arm for reactions for the next 2 days.
7. Reactions would be expected to be raised and red. We need to know if it is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5 you are reacting to!! You can write the numbers on the skin next to each patch so you don't get confused.

Phone your dermatologist and inform them of results.