

wearing tests



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The second stage of the "Testing on hypoallergenic fabrics and garments" project run by the Dermatologic Department of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, consisted in wearing finished garments in order to assess their hypoallergenicity.

To that end, 34 people were called, 5 males and 29 females whose age ranged between 27 and 65 years. These patients were chosen on the basis of their previous history of fabric intolerance and of positive responses to skin tests run with fabrics.

The patients were given proper-size black or white garments made of vegetal cotton, and were asked to wear those for one month, days and nights. The patients were given a sufficient amount of garments to avoid them using different clothes.

Parameters such as xerosis, erythema, exfoliation, vesication and itch were assessed before and after the wearing tests.

The participants were also asked to fill a questionnaire about the tolerability and pleasantness of the tested garments.

Seventeen patients were given a kit of white t-shirts, the remaining 17 a kit of black t-shirts.

Only one patient (a 32-year-old woman) out of 34 presented to the objective examination a trunk eczema with erythema, exfoliation and itch.

The remaining 33 patients showed no signs of existing dermatitis.

Having worn the given garments for one month, the patient with eczema showed an improvement of the skin situation and the itch symptomatology, while the other patients did not show any sign of dermatitis nor itch.

At the end of the wearing test, the participants were given a questionnaire about the tolerability and pleasantness of the tested garments.

The patients were asked to grade the garments as scant, average, good or excellent. Twenty-five patients out of 34 (3 males and 2 females) graded as excellent both the tolerability and the pleasantness of garments; nine patients (2 males and 7 females) valued both tolerability and pleasantness as good.

In conclusion, the results of this stage show that the tested garments have been well tolerated by allergic patients.

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