Patient Information

Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to DMDM hydantoin. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching, and fluid-filled blisters.

Where is DMDM hydantoin found?

DMDM hydantoin is used as a preservative in cosmetics, skin care products, and other personal hygiene products. It may release formaldehyde and cross-reactions to other formaldehyde-releasing substances may occur.

How can you avoid contact with DMDM hydantoin?

Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients:

- 1,3-Dimethylol-5,5-dimethylhydantoin
- 2,4-Imidazolidinedione, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-5,5-dimethyl-
- DMDM Hydantoin
- 1,3-Bis(hydroxymethyl)-5,5-dimethyl-2,4-imidazolidinedione
- 1,3-Di(hydroxymethyl)-5,5-dimethylhydantoin
- BRN 0882348
- Caswell No. 273AB
- Dantoin-DMDMH
- DMDMH
- EINECS 229-222-8
- EPA Pesticide Chemical Code 115501
- Glycoserve-DMDMH
- HSDB 7488
- Hydantoin, 1,3-bis(hydroxymethyl)-5,5-dimethyl-

What are some products that may contain DMDM hydantoin?

- Baby and General Care Wipes
- Body Washes
- Cosmetics
- Diaper Cream
- Hair Colorants
- Hair Styling Products
- Hand Soaps
- Pet Care Products
- Polishes
- Shampoo/Conditioners
- Shaving Cream, Gel
- Skin Care and Lotions
- Soaps/Cleanser

*For additional information about products that might contain DMDM hydantoin, go to the Household Product Database online (householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov) at the United States National Library of Medicine. These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. They are not comprehensive. Product formulations also change frequently. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. These are general guidelines. Talk to your doctor for more specific instructions.*