Patient Information

Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to glutaraldehyde. 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 glutaraldehyde found?

Glutaraldehyde is a potent antimicrobial/sterilant used to disinfect equipment, surfaces, and laundry in the health care and cosmetology industries. It is used in leather treatments, chemical syntheses, x-ray film developers, paper manufacture and paper finishes, and as a preservative in paints and art paints. It is used as an embalming fluid and in many biochemical applications such as tissue fixative in electron microscopy and as an amine-reactive homobifunctional crosslinker.

How can you avoid contact with glutaraldehyde?

Avoid products that list the following in the ingredients:

- Glutaral
- Glutaric dialdehyde
- Cidex
- Aldesan
- BRN 0605390
- Caswell No. 468
- EPA Pesticide Chemical Code 043901
- Glutaric acid dialdehyde
- HSDB 949
- NSC 13392
- 4-01-00-03659 (Beilstein Handbook Reference)
- Glutaraldehyde
- Pentanedial
- 1,3-Diformylpropane
- Alhydex
- CCRIS 3800
- EINECS 203-856-5
- Glutaraldehyde fixative
- Glutaric aldehyde
- NCI-C55425
- Sonacid
- Ucarcide

What are some products that may contain glutaraldehyde?

- Art Supplies
- Automotive Sealers
- Embalming Fluid
- Finished Paper
- Industrial Disinfectants and Sterilizers
- Long-Term Preservatives
- Paints
- Facial Creams/Cleansers
- Treated Leather Goods
- X-Ray Film Developer

*For additional information about products that might contain glutaraldehyde, 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.