Patient Information

Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to quaternium 15. 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 quaternium 15 found?

Quaternium 15 is commonly used in personal care products such as cosmetics, soaps, and shampoos. It also is found in industrial polishes, waxes, inks, paints, and metal working fluids. It belongs to a group of preservatives known as formaldehyde-releasing agents.

How can you avoid contact with quaternium 15?

Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients:
- Quaternium-15
- Chloroallyl methenamine chloride
- Hexamethylenetetramine chloroallyl chloride
- 3,5,7-triaza-1-azoniaadamantane, 1-(3-chloroallyl)-, chloride
- N-(3-chloroallyl)hexaminium chloride
- 1-(3-Chloroallyl)-3,5,7-triaza-1-azoniaadamantane chloride, cis form
- 3,5,7-Triaza-1-azoniatricyclo(3.3.1.3.1.7,7)decane, 1-(3-chloro-2-propenyl)-, chloride, (Z)-
- Hexamethylenetetramine chloroallyl chloride, cis isomer

What are some products that may contain quaternium 15?

- Baby Products:
  - Baby oil
  - Baby shampoo
  - Baby wash
  - Bubble bath
  - Cleansing pads
- Body Washes
- Cosmetics:
  - Blush
  - Bronzer
  - Eye shadow
  - Foundation
  - Loose powder
  - Mascara
- Industrial Uses:
  - Inks
  - Metal work
  - Paints
  - Polishes
  - Waxes
- Pet Shampoos and Conditioners
- Shampoos
- Shaving Cream and Gels
- Sunscreens

*For additional information about products that might contain quaternium 15, go to the Household Product Database online [householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov](http://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.