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## Sensitization to benzocaine on a condom

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### Case Report

A 44-year-old man presented with a 1-year history of erythematous desquamative lesions on the penis and scrotum. Erythematous desquamative lesions were also found to be present in the periorbital region and on the frontal area of the hairline. Patch tests with the GIRD-CA standard series demonstrated a positive reaction to benzocaine 5% pet. (D2+/D3++). Reviewing the history revealed that the patient habitually used retarding condoms, and that the dermatitis worsened after sexual intercourse. Further patch tests with a rubber series, a piece (1 cm×1 cm) of the same brand of condom that the patient used, a piece (1 cm×1 cm) of the same condom washed clean of lubricant, and pure polyethylene glycol and pure glycerin, other components of the lubricant, were positive only to the *lubricated* condom (D2-/D3++).

### Discussion

The condoms used by our patient (Hatu'-Ico®) are made of natural latex and have retarding cream and silicone

oil applied as lubricants. The retarding cream is a colorless odorless homogeneous paste composed of benzocaine 5%, glycerin 1% and polyethylene glycol 94%. Benzocaine is a p-aminobenzoic acid derivative used as a local anesthetic (1). Allergic contact dermatitis due to condoms is usually caused by natural latex or rubber additives (2–3). The spread of lesions to the patient's face was probably due to transfer by the hands.

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