

Response to: “Patients with negative patch tests: Retrospective analysis of North American Contact Dermatitis Group (NACDG) data 2001-2016”



To the editor: I appreciate the work of Warshaw et al¹ discussing patients with negative patch test results. It is indeed invaluable to most dermatologists who face this limitation, which affects decision making.

It would have been valuable to discuss the clinical presentation of the patients with negative patch test results because subtle dermatitis that results in pigmented contact dermatitis, such as after use of cosmetics, may result in a negative patch test result. It would also have been worthwhile to discuss whether a later reading was taken in any of these patients because this may improve the yield if the index of suspicion is high and dermatitis is mild. Another valuable piece of information to include would be the role of a repeated open application test in the patients with a negative patch test reaction.

Thank you for the informative article, and I look forward to further clarification.

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REFERENCE

1. Warshaw EM, Zhang AJ, Belsito DV, et al. Patients with negative patch tests: retrospective analysis of North American Contact Dermatitis Group (NACDG) data 2001-2016. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2019;80(6):1618-1629.

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