Introduction: In general, allergic contact dermatitis appears as an eczematous skin reaction, but clinical signs may be modified by additional local triggers.

Methods: Here, we present two patients who for treatment of a minimal trauma on the hands, applied antiphlogistic and analgetic creams. Subsequently, they developed blisters, erosions and ulcers in the treated area. Because of clinical presentations, we suspected a bacterial infection and initiated a systemic therapy with antibiotics. However, the skin lesions did not improve. In addition, one patients developed a generalized pruritic papular rash after two weeks. Among various differential diagnoses, we considered a contact allergy. Patch tests revealed type IV –sensitizations to lidocain in both patients. According to the list of contents, lidocain was a constituent of the wound creams applied. Thus, the diagnosis of allergic contact dermatitis was made.

Conclusion: In cases of prolonged wound healing, concomitant contact allergy to topically applied therapeutics including over-the-counter drugs, should be considered. A detailed patient history as well as patch tests may provide main clues for the correct diagnosis.

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Bed bugs in Geneva: role of dermatologists

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Introduction: Bed bugs, Cimex lectularius, are blood-sucking human parasites that are found worldwide. Bed bug infestations have been more often observed in homes, apartments, hotel rooms, hospitals in developed countries. Their increase may be due to international travel, immigration, and insecticide resistance.

Since 2012, it became a recurrent reason for consultation in our polyclinic.

Objective: To evaluate the importance of bed bugs in Geneva University hospitals.

Method: Case definition is based on the following classification:

- possible: when the patient presents clinical signs of bed bugs bites without any risk factors or evidence of contact with arthropods.

- probable: when clinical signs and risk factors are present, but the patient hasn’t seen the insect.

- certain: when a symptomatic patient brings us the bed bugs found in his house.

Data was prospectively collected in two different departments: public health nurses at the dermatology department and hygiene and cleaning department.

Results: We collected 26 certain cases, 32 probable cases and 3 possible cases in our department of dermatology between January 2012 and April 2013. Moreover, approximately 8 certain cases in emergency room, and 2 in hospitalized patients were registered by the hygiene and cleaning department.

Conclusion: Cases of bed bugs bites are regularly observed in Geneva canton since 2012, but without a dramatic increase. However, it may become a public health care problem as diagnosis may be delayed and eradication is difficult. An adequate support to get rid of these bed bugs is necessary. A public health program is ongoing in canton of Geneva. The help of all dermatologists is required.