Allergy due to calcium cyanamide

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Background:
Cyanamide (carbimide or calcium carbimide) has been used in the deshabituation treatment of alcoholics because of its effect on ethanol metabolism through inhibition of the enzyme aldehyde dehydrogenase.
The skin reactions provoked by this medication are generally associated with systemic reactions after ingestion the drug. However, allergic contact dermatitis has also been detected on persons who prepare cyanamide for administration to patients.

Method:
We present a case of allergy contact dermatitis due to calcium cyanamide:
- A 43 year old woman who prepared calcium cyanamide for administration to her husband.
- She developed, 5 times, eczematous, itching lesions on her hand and left arm because of the contact with drug spillage.
- The lesions went away after 15 days following intramuscular corticoids.

Result:
- The diagnosis was confirmed by patch testing with calcium cyanamide at 10% concentration as open as occlusion patches.
- After avoiding it, she never had any episodes again.

Conclusion:
Despite the widespread use of the drug, hypersensitivity reactions are not common. However, allergic contact dermatitis has also been detected because of fertilizer containing hydrogen cyanamide and on people who prepare cyanamide for administration.

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