Your patch testing results indicate that you have a contact allergy to **Sorbic acid**. It is important that you familiarize yourself with this chemical and take steps to avoid coming in contact with it.

**What is Sorbic acid and where is it found?**

This chemical is used as a mold and yeast inhibitor and as a fungistatic agent for foods; especially cheeses. It is also used in adhesives, glues, inks, paints, varnishes, tanning agents and metalworking fluids. It is also a cosmetic ingredient and it is used in pharmaceuticals and tobacco products. Further research may identify additional product or industrial usages of this chemical.

**What else is Sorbic acid called?**

This chemical can be identified by different names, including:

- 1,3-pentadiene-1-carboxylic acid
- 2,4-Hexadienoic acid
- (2-butenylidene)acetic acid
- 2-Propenyl acrylic acid
- Alpha-trans-gamma-trans-sorbic acid
- Crotylidene acetic acid
- Hexadienoic acid
- Preservastat
- Panosorb
- Sorbitstat
- Trans, trans-2,4-hexadienoic acid
- Trans, trans-sorbic acid

This may not be a complete list as manufacturers introduce and delete chemicals from their product lines.

**THINGS YOU CAN DO TO HELP MANAGE YOUR CONTACT ALLERGY**

- **Be vigilant ... read the product label.** Always take the time to read the ingredient listing on product packages. This should be your first step each time you purchase a product as manufacturers sometimes change product ingredients. If you have any concerns ask your pharmacist or your doctor.
- **Test the product first.** If you have purchased a new product you should test it on a small skin area to see if you get a reaction before using the product on larger skin areas.
- **Advise people you obtain services from of your contact allergy.** This should include people like your pharmacist, doctor, hairdresser, florist, veterinarian, etc.
- **Inform your employer if the source of your contact allergy is work related.** You should identify the specific source of the chemical and take the necessary steps to avoid further exposure. Protective wear may be adequate or you may need to make a change in your work activities. Both you and your employer benefit when the cause of your occupational dermatitis is eliminated.
- **“Google” it.** The internet is an excellent source of ingredient information that can be searched by product, by company and by specific chemical. Some helpful independent internet links include:
  - www.nlm.nih.gov/pubs/factsheets/factsheets.html (U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services; alphabetic list)
  - www.cosmeticsinfo.org (Cosmetic Industry Category Ingredient Database)
  - www.whatsinsidescjohnson.com (information on all S.C. Johnson product ingredients)

If you have any future contact dermatitis concerns or questions, please call the doctor's office.

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