

Dermatitis, Contact (Acute) Level II

DERMATITIS, CONTACT (ACUTE)

Level II

Skill Level: RN

Definition: Contact dermatitis involves irritation and/or skin rash following direct contact with a substance. It can be an irritant dermatitis, which can develop immediately after contact or it can be a delayed allergic skin reaction after skin contact with an allergen (e. g. metals, wool and poison oak). For allergic dermatitis, it takes 1-7 days to fully develop the rash, and it generally takes 7-14 days to resolve from a single exposure.

<p>Subjective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exposure history unclear. No known or possible exposure to usual antigens.• "This rash is spreading, it's all over now."	<p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Altered skin integrity: moderate to severe Contact Dermatitis.• Potential of skin infection
<p>Objective:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No breathing difficulties.• Normal Vital signs for patient.• Describe distribution.• Lesions may be pink, raised, with vesicles and irregular borders.• Minor facial involvement may be present.• No sign of infection.• Note prior exposure history and severity.• May have extensive involvement (>25% of body surface area—see chart).• May have facial involvement.	<p>Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide Level I treatment plan plus: <p>At nursing discretion may use any of the below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Triamcinolone Ointment 0.1% apply to affected area BID for two weeks and nurse recheck in one week. <u>Do not apply to the face.</u>• If unstable vital signs or breathing difficulty, refer to the appropriate protocol for more aggressive treatment.• Extensive involvement or facial involvement, call practitioner or refer for next available appointment.

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Nursing Education:

1. Extensive contact dermatitis frequently will respond only to oral steroid medication. Call Provider if this is the case.
2. Herpes skin infections, Herpes Simplex or Zoster, are caused by a herpes virus. This condition can present as vesicles filled with clear fluid but there is usually tenderness or a burning pain associated with these conditions.

Patient Education:

1. Contact Dermatitis is non-contagious.
2. Advise patient of the signs and symptoms of second bacterial infection.
3. Advise patient that it may take up to two weeks for condition to resolve. If no improvement within one week, patient should notify Health Services.

APPROVED:

Medical Services Manager

Date

Chief Medical Officer

Date

Steve Sherron MD.

2/24/2015

Medical Director

Date

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Use the following diagram to estimate the percentage of surface area involved in the dermatitis that is under evaluation:

