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Cutaneous sensitivity to inhalant allergens is a marker of severity of vernal keratoconjunctivitis?

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Purpose The purpose of this study was to analyze the cutaneous sensitivity to different allergens in patients with vernal keratoconjunctivitis and to show the relationship between skin response and clinical aspects of the disease.

Methods Twenty patients with vernal keratoconjunctivitis were randomly chosen from the sector of external disease and cornea. They were evaluated and a clinical score ranging from 0 to 20 was applied according to symptoms and signs presented at ophthalmic examination. All subjects underwent skin prick test against standardized allergens such as house dust mites *D.*

pteronysinus, *D. farinae*, and *Blomia tropicalis* as well as allergens from cat, dog, fungi and feather. **Results** Seventy five percent of patients were positive for at least one of the tested allergens. House dust mites were responsible for the majority of the cases (75%). There was a poor correlation between clinical score and sensitivity to allergens ($r = - 0,119$ for fungi; $r = - 0,174$ for dog; $r = - 0,243$ for house dust mites; $r = - 0,090$ for feather). A significant correlation was found only for cat allergen extract ($r = - 0,510$; $p = 0,024$).

Conclusion Our study demonstrated a poor correlation between immunologic cutaneous tests and clinical findings in patients with vernal keratoconjunctivitis. We concluded that skin response to inhalant allergens is not a parameter to identify clinical severity and chronicity of inflammatory process in this disease.