wax and of dermatitis due to Bisphenol A sensitivity other than in epoxy resin workers.

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Phototoxicity of a weedkiller: a correction

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Key words: Phototoxicity – weedkiller – glyphosate – benzisothiazolone.

In a previous communication (1), we reported a phototoxic reaction in a patient to the weedkiller 'Tumbleweed' (Murphys Ltd.) which we attributed to its active ingredient, glyphosate. Subsequent information received from the manufacturer indicated that, in addition to glyphosate, the weedkiller contained the preservative benzisothiazolone. The patient was re-phototested as described previously (1) to the separate constituents glyphosate and benzisothiazolone, both at concentrations of 1% in aqueous solution. No phototoxic reactions were observed with glyphosate, but the combination of UV-A and benzisothiazolone produced delayed erythema at doses in excess of 7 Jcm^{-2}; this dose is about one third of the minimal erythema dose on patients' unsensitised skin. We conclude that benzisothiazolone is the phototoxic agent in 'Tumbleweed' and not glyphosate as we originally implied.

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Estradiol enhances nickel-induced blast transformation

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Key words: Nickel sensitivity – blast transformation – estradiol – progesterone – cortisol.

Female subjects suffer about 10 times more often from nickel sensitivity than males (1). Therefore we studied the effect of the female sex steroid hormones on nickel-induced lymphocyte blast transformation which is specific to clinical nickel sensitivity (2).

Lymphocytes of 9 nickel sensitive subjects, 6 female and 3 male, were cultured for 7 days in the presence of 6.25 $\mu g/ml$ $NiSO_4$ as described earlier (3). Steroids present in the human male AB serum used (10%) in the RPMI-1640 culture medium were removed by