Patient Information

Your patch test result indicates that you have a contact allergy to (2-hydroxyethyl)-methacrylate. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching, and fluid-filled blisters.

Where is (2-hydroxyethyl)-methacrylate found?

(2-hydroxyethyl)-methacrylate (HEMA) is an acrylate used in the medical and dental-related fields. (2-hydroxyethyl)-methacrylate is used in light curing polymer systems and high performance coatings for lasting high gloss against scratching, solvents, and weathering. It is used in paint resins and emulsions, and binders for textiles and paper. It is also used as an adhesion promoter for metal coatings.

It is used in orthopedic surgery (fillings of bone defects, hip prostheses, osteotomy, in neurosurgery (vertebral fusion), in reconstructive surgery, and in dental surgery (and especially in periodontology and implantology).

How can you avoid contact with (2-hydroxyethyl)-methacrylate?

Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients:

- 2-Hydroxyethyl methacrylate
- HEMA

What are some products that may contain (2-hydroxyethyl)-methacrylate?

- Dental Appliances
- High Performance Coatings
- Hydropad for Transcutaneous Electric Nerve Stimulation Unit
- Joint Prostheses
- Light-cured Resin Systems:
  - Scotchbond 2 light cure dental adhesive
  - Scotchprep dentin adhesive
- Orthopedic Fillers
- Paints
- Paper Binders
- Resins

*For additional information about products that might contain (2-hydroxyethyl)-methacrylate, go to the Household Product Database online (householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov) at the United States National Library of Medicine. These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. They are not comprehensive. Product formulations also change frequently. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. These are general guidelines. Talk to your doctor for more specific instructions.

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