Patient Information

Your patch test results indicate that you have a contact allergy to tea tree oil. 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 tea tree oil found?

Tea tree (Melaleuca) oil is used as an antiseptic, antifungal, and disinfectant, and may be found as a component of skin care and nail care products. Tea tree leaves have been used for treating cuts, burns, and infections. It may also be found in household products like detergents, soaps, and gentle cleansers as well as in personal care products like shampoos, oral care products, and lip balms.

How can you avoid contact with tea tree oil?

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

• Tea tree oil
• Melaleuca alternifolia oil
• Tea extract
• Tea oil

• CCRIS 9084
• T36-C7
• Tea leaf, absolute

What are some products that may contain tea tree oil?

• Baby Products:
  – Baby powder
  – Baby shampoo
• Detergents/Cleansers
• Hair Care:
  – Conditioner
  – Shampoo
• Body Lotions
• Nail Care Products
• Pet Care:
  – Horse cleaner
• Shampoo
• Skin Care Products

*For additional information about products that might contain tea tree oil, oxidized, 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.