Phototoxic and Photoallergic Reactions

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18.1 Introduction

[AU1]

Phototoxicity and photoallergy are different expressions 5 of an abnormal skin reaction from the exposure to light, 6 usually enhanced by endogenous or exogenous sub-7 stances that are selectively activated by solar radiation. 8

This can occur with artificial light sources (sun 9 lumps used for aesthetic or therapeutic purposes or 10 ultraviolet (UV) sources in occupational settings), but 11 mostly occur on sun exposure. From the solar spec-12 trum that reaches the earth, UV radiation, and particu-13 larly UVA (320–400 nm), is responsible for most cases 14 of photosensitivity. Even though some chromophores 15 absorb in the UVB (290-320 nm) and UVB is more 16 energetic, UVA penetrates the skin more deeply and, 17 particularly for systemic chromophores, this is cer-18 tainly the most important spectrum for inducing photo-19 dermatosis [1]. Only exceptional reports have a well-20 documented exogenous photosensitivity exclusively 21 from UVB [2]. 22

Photosensitivity from topical agents, once frequent 23 and often associated with persistent reactions to light, is 24 now becoming rare [3, 4], as the main topical photosen-25 sitizers are removed from the market, or maybe photo-26 sensitivity is underreported or underdiagnosed [5]. On 27 the other hand, and even though sun avoidance is rec-28 ommended in those exposed to known photosensitizers, 29 new drugs are reported to have photosensitizing proper-30 ties, eventually associated with late problems. 31

Therefore, photosensitivity is still a problem and a 32 field on intense research. New photosensitizers are 33 reported as a cause of skin disease, whereas others are 34 used for phtnototherapy. Studies are still being under-35 taken on the mechanisms and chromophores, responsible for diseases associated with photosensitivity, 37 such as HIV infection [6, 7]. 38

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18.2 General Mechanisms of Photosensitivity

Normal skin has several molecules that are activated
upon sun exposure and undergo chemical reactions –
the chromophores – which are important for our survival under the sun and necessary for our life. An
example is 7-dehydrocholesterol which, upon activation by UVB, forms provitamin D3 necessary for
Vitamin D synthesis.

Photosensitivity develops when an abnormal chro-48 mophore, or a normal chromophore in exaggerated 49 amounts, is present in the skin. When excited by a photon, 50 these molecules suffer changes within the molecule itself, 51 often also within neighboring molecules, in a cascade of 52 events that result in skin damage and inflammation. This 53 can occur through the direct molecular modification 54 (isomerization, breaking of double bounds, oxidation) or 55 production of free radicals, dependent or not on oxygen, 56 which modify unsaturated lipids of cell membranes, aro-57 matic amino acids of proteins, or DNA or RNA bases of 58 nucleic acids. If the repair mechanisms do not act imme-59 diately, there is damage and/or death of skin cells and 60 inflammatory mediators are produced (prostaglandins, 61 IL-1, 6, 8, other cytokines, and chemokines) with conse-62 quent skin lesions - this is briefly the mechanism of pho-63 totoxicity [1]. In some circumstances, the energy of the 64 photon can be used by the chromophore to transform 65 itself into a new molecule (photoproduct) or to bind an 66 endogenous peptide and, therefore, form a hapten or an 67 allergen that can be recognized by the skin immune sys-68 tem. In these cases, photoallergy may develop with a sen-69 sitization phase and effector phase similar to allergic 70 contact dermatitis (see Chap. 8 for more details). 71

Apart from the capacity to generate free radicals 72 responsible for phototoxicity, several phototoxic sub-73 stances, such as psoralens, chlorpromazine, and fluo-74 rquinolones, have shown to induce chromosomal 75 damage in the presence of UVR. Therefore, both in vitro 76 and in animal studies, they were photomutagenic and 77 photoimmunosuppressive, with consequent implica-78 tions in photocarcinogenesis [8–12]. Epidemiological 79 studies and recent reports are showing this may also be 80 significant for humans. In 1999, the group of Przybilla 81 showed an association between actinic keratosis and the 82 use of potentially photosensitizing chemicals [13]. More 83 recent data tend to confirm an increased risk in patients 84 on long-term PUVA treatments [14] and, also in those 85

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exposed to fluorquinolones, diuretics [15], and voricon-86 azole [16]. The chromophore responsible for the photo-87 sensitive reaction can be an endogenous molecule, like 88 a porphyrin that accumulates in the skin due to an inborn 89 metabolic error, or it can be an exogenous molecule that 90 is applied on the skin or reaches the skin through the 91 systemic circulation. In many diseases, the chromophore 92 has been identified, but there are many idiopathic photo-93 dermatoses for which the main chromophore is still 94 unknown. Some resemble exogenous photoallergic 95 reactions, like "Lucite Estivale Bénigne," polymorphic 96 light eruption, or chronic actinic dermatitis, whereas 97 others have very typical clinical patterns, like hydroa 98 vacciniforme or actinic prurigo. Also, as sunscreens are 99 widely used to prevent skin lesions in these photoder-100 matoses, these patients frequently develop allergic or 101 photoallergic contact dermatitis to UV filters [3, 4], 102 thereby associating the effect of endogenous and exog-103 enous chromophores. 104

In some patients, photosensitivity develops because 105 of a deficiency in the capacity to repair UV aggression, 106 due to a genetic problem (xeroderma pigmentosum, 107 Bloom's syndrome) or a transient imbalance of antioxi-108 dant skin defense (in pellagra due to reduced levels of 109 niacin in diet or alcohol consumption), or because the 110 natural mechanisms of skin protection are deficient (vit-111 iligo, albinism) [1, 17]. 112

Core Message

> UV activation of an endogenous or an exogenous skin chromophore can induce an inflammatory reaction (phototoxicity) or a T-cell-mediated reaction (photoallergy).

18.2.1 Phototoxicity vs. Photoallergy

113

In theory, it is easy to differentiate photoallergy, a 114 T-cell-mediated hypersensitivity reaction to an aller-115 gen formed upon UV exposure, from phototoxicity, 116 that represents an exaggerated inflammatory response 117 to the sun enhanced by an exogenous chromophore. 118 Classically, photoallergy develops only in a limited 119 number in individuals, needs previous sensitization but 120 is extensive to cross-reactive chemicals, is subject to 121

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flare-ups, is not dependent on the dose of the exoge-122 nous chromophore and needs low UV exposure, 123 appears as eczema that can spread to nonexposed sites, 124 and on skin biopsy, there is mainly spongiosis as in 125 eczema. Phototoxicity is more frequent and considered 126 127 to develop in every individual, as long as enough photosensitizer and sun exposure are present; occurs even 128 on a first and single contact, with no flare-ups or cross-129 reactions; and appears mainly as well-demarcated ery-130 thema exclusively on sun-exposed areas (mimicking 131 sunburn); and on histology, apoptotic keratinocytes 132 (sunburn cells) are abundant (Table 18.1). 133

But, even though there are typical aspects of these 134 two polar types of photosensitivity, some molecules 135 may induce both phototoxic and photoallergic dermati-136 tis. Although rare, this can occur with plant furocou-137 marins (Ruta graveolans, Ficus carica, Umbeliferae) 138 or during photochemotherapy, as individuals become 139 reactive to very low concentrations of psoralens [18]. 140 Also, for mainly phototoxic drugs like promethazine 141 and lomefloxacin, a few patients develop photoallergy, 142 reacting to very low doses of the drug or sun exposure 143 [19–21]. Most probably, as occurs with contact aller-144 gens that have an inherent "irritant" potential to awaken 145 the innate immune system necessary to promote the 146 sensitization process [22], photoallergens are photoac-147 tive molecules with some inherent phototoxicity, which 148 may be the "danger signal" necessary to initiate the 149 sensitizing process. 150

Also, although it is considered that photoallergy does 151 not occur on a first contact due to the need for previous 152 sensitization, this may not be necessary if you have 153 already been sensitized by contact to a similar molecule. 154 This occurs in patients who are allergic to thiomersal, 155 namely to its moiety thiosalicylic acid, who develop 156 photosensitivity to piroxicam on the first intake of the 157 drug. Upon UVA irradiation, piroxicam is photodecom-158 posed into a molecule very similar antigenically and 159 structurally to thiosalicylic acid, responsible for piroxi-160 cam photoallergy [23–25]. 161

Also, although phototoxicity is considered to occur in every patient as long as enough chromophore and sun are present at the same time, there is also individual susceptibility to phototoxicity from drugs and phytophotodermatitis, even though the parameters that characterize this susceptibility are not precisely known. 167

Therefore, and although, in theory, we can separate these two mechanisms – phototoxicity and photoal-lergy, there is often an overlap between both. 169

18.3 Clinical Patterns171of Photosensitivity172

The clinical patterns of photosensitive disorders are 173 sometimes very typical, like phytophotodermatitis, acute 174 exaggerated sunburn from exposure to a phototoxic 175

t1.1	Table 18.1 Distinction between phototoxicity and photoallergy				
t1.2		Phototoxicity	Photoallergy		
t1.3	Frequency	High	Low		
t1.4	Latency period/sensitization	No	Yes		
t1.5	Doses of UV/photosensitizer	High	Low		
t1.6	Cross-reactions	No	Yes		
t1.7	Morphology of lesions	Sunburn, polymorphic	Eczema, erythema multiforme		
t1.8	Sharp limits	Yes	No		
t1.9	Covered areas	Not involved	Possibly involved		
t1.10	Resolution	Quick	May recur, persistent reactors		
t1.11	Residual hyperpigmentation	Yes	No		
t1.12	Histology	Sunburn cells	Eczema		
t1.13 t1.14	Pathomechanism	DNA/cell damage ROS/inflammation	Type IV hypersensitivity Photoproduct		

t1.15 *ROS* reactive oxygen species

18

drug, and, among some idiopathic photodermatoses, 176 hydroa vacciniforme and xeroderma pigmentosum. But, 177 sometimes, the diagnosis or even the suspicion of photo-178 sensitivity is not so obvious. It is the example of acute or 179 chronic eczematous skin lesions, extending to covered 180 areas, with a less well-established relation with sun 181 exposure (often a regular exposure), like in chronic 182 actinic dermatitis or in photoaggravation of rosacea or 183 lupus erythematosus by sunscreens. 184

The clinical manifestations of photosensitivity are very polymorphic (Table 18.2), extending from urticaria through eczema or subacute lupus erythematosus up to vitiligo-like lesion or squamous cell carcinomas [14, 16, 19].

In some cases, exposure to sun induces immediate 190 reactions, like in solar urticaria, but the appearance of 191 skin lesions may be delayed 1 or 2 days, as in photoal-192 lergic contact dermatitis or systemic photoallergy, sev-193 eral days or weeks, as in pseudoporphyria or subacute 194 lupus erythematosus, or even years, as in photocar-195 cinogenesis enhanced by a long exposure to the sun 196 and photoactive drugs. 197

Localization of the lesions in photosensitivity from 198 a topical agent draws the area of application and con-199 comitant sun exposure. But localization and distribu-200 tion of lesions may be more peculiar extending to areas 201 of accidental contact, as in a contra-lateral limb (kiss-202 ing faces of the legs) or areas of inadvertent spread by 203 the hands or other contaminated objects [26]. Also, as 204 some topical drugs are absorbed through the skin 205 (NSAIDs), the distribution of the lesions can be simi-206 lar to systemic photosensitivity. This is usually very 207

[AU2] Table 18.2 Clinical patterns of photosensitivity

t2.2 t2.3	Predominant in phototoxicity	Predominant in photoallergy
t2.4	Exaggerated "sunburn"	Urticaria of sun exposed area
t2.5	Pseudoporphyria	Acute or subacute eczema
t2.6	Photoonycholysis	Cheilitis
t2.7	Hyperpigmentation	Erythema multiform-like
t2.8 t2.9	Hypopigmentation (vitiligo-like lesions)	Lichenoid reactions
t2.10 t2.11	Telangiectasia Purpura	Subacute or chronic lupus erythematosus
t2.12 t2.13	Actinic keratosis and squamous cell carcinoma	Pellagra like-reactions

typical, as the reaction frequently involves, in a sym-208 metric distribution, all exposed areas of the face, the 209 V-shaped area of the neck, and upper chest, dorsum of 210 the hands and forearms, while shaded areas are spared. 211 This corresponds, in the face, to the upper eyelids, 212 upper lip, deep wrinkles (Fig. 18.1), retroauricular 213 areas, submandibular area (Fig. 18.2), and areas cov-214 ered by the beard or hair; and in the body, to the large 215 body folds, like the axillae, groins, finger webs, and to 216 all the areas covered by clothing or other accessories 217 (watch strip, shoes). This allows a distinction from air-218 borne dermatitis where the allergen in the environment 219 can localize in these shaded areas and induce skin 220 lesions, without the need for sun exposure. 221

In exceptional cases where sun exposure is asym-222 metric, this pattern can be different, as in car drivers 223 who only expose the left arm. Sometimes, in systemic 224 photosensitivity, the lower lip is mainly or almost 225 exclusively involved, because of its higher exposure 226 and, most probably, because of the lower thickness of 227 the corneal layer, which is one of the main defenses 228 against solar radiation [27–29]. 229



Fig. 18.1 Acute phototoxicity from amiodarone, mimicking sunburn and sparing the deep wrinkles

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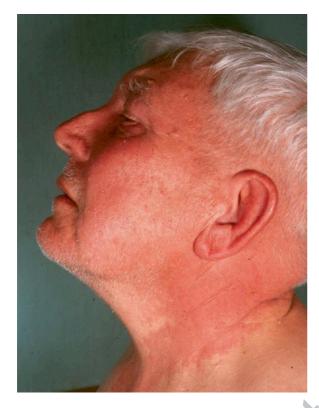


Fig. 18.2 Acute eczema from systemic piroxicam, sparing the submandibular shaded area

Core Message

> Phototoxic reactions present mainly as an exaggerated sunburn, but may be very polymorphic and difficult to distinguish from photoallergy.

18.3.1 Acute Manifestations of Photosensitivity

232 18.3.1.1 Immediate Reactions

Apart from idiopathic solar urticaria, for which a chro-233 mophore is not identified, urticaria as a manifestation 234 of photosensitivity from an exogenous substance has 235 been rarely described with 5-aminolevulinic acid, used 236 in photodynamic therapy [30], with oxybenzone [31, 237 32] and chlorpromazine [33]. Nevertheless for some 238 drugs, like amiodarone and benoxaprofen (already 239 removed from the market), immediate prickling and 240

burning with transient erythema may occur as a manifestation of photosensitivity [14].

18.3.1.2 Acute Phototoxicity, Mimicking243Sunburn244

The main acute clinical manifestation of phototoxic-245 ity is a well-demarcated acute erythema or edema 246 with prickling and burning, eventually progressing to 247 bullae with skin pain, which develops within 12-24 h 248 of sun exposure. This gives rise to large sheets of epi-249 dermal detachment within the next days and can 250 resolve with residual hyperpigmentation. This is simi-251 lar to exaggerated sunburn (Fig. 18.1), and eventually, 252 can also be associated with systemic symptoms like 253 fever. 254

18.3.1.3 Acute Photoallergic Eczema

Photoallergy occurs usually as a pruritic eczematous 256 reaction of the sun exposed areas, with irregular limits, 257 often extending to covered areas. It develops more than 258 24–48 h after sun exposure, and not on a first contact. 259 This resolves, like in acute eczema, with desquamation 260 and no hyperpigmentation. Distribution of lesions is 261 usually symmetric in systemic photosensitivity and 262 shaded areas are also protected but not as sharply as in 263 phototoxicity (Fig. 18.2). 264

255

In the more intense photoallergic reactions, typical 265 or atypical target lesions, characteristic of erythema 266 multiforme and with histopathology of erythema multiforme, can be seen in association with the eczematous plaques, mainly at its limits or at distant sites, as 269 was described for ketoprofen [34, 35] 270

In some cases, a systemic photosensitizer can induce 271 a photodistributed erythema multiforme or toxic epidermal necrolysis, as described with paclitaxel [36], 273 naproxen [37] and clobazam [38]. 274

18.3.2 Subacute Manifestations275of Photosensitivity276

Other less frequent clinical patterns develop with a 277 delay of days/weeks after exposure to the photosensitizer and the sun, or rarely acutely. These patterns that 279

evoke mainly a phototoxic reaction are pseudoporphyria, photoonycholysis, hyper or hypopigmentation, telangiectasia, and purpura.

283 18.3.2.1 Pseudoporphyria

Pseudoporphyria with chronic skin fragility and flac-284 cid bullae on noninflamed sun-exposed skin, occasion-285 ally with later milia formation, mimicking porphyria 286 cutanea tarda on clinical and histopathology (bullae 287 formation below the lamina densa), was described ini-288 tially for nalidixic acid, furosemide, and naproxen, 289 predominantly in children [14, 39] and, more recently, 290 for ciprofloxacin [40], celecoxib [41, 42], voriconazole 291 [28, 43], and imatinib [44]. This may represent a typi-292 cal phototoxic reaction where the drug, as the chro-293 mophore, has a similar mechanism of inducing the 294 phototoxic reaction (singlet oxygen) as the uroporphy-295 rin in the hereditary disease [14, 39]. 296

297 18.3.2.2 Photoonycholysis

Photoonycholysis, with a half moon distal onycholysis 298 of one or several nails, is a typical pattern of phototox-299 icity and often the single manifestation of this reaction. 300 It appears late (2-3 weeks after drug intake and sun 301 exposure), may be preceded by pain in the nail appara-302 tus, and occurs mainly with tetracyclines (demethyl-303 chlortetracyclie or doxycycline) [45], psoralens, and 304 fluorquinolones [46]. There is no definite explanation 305 for the single involvement of the nail: the nail bed is 306 relatively unprotected from sunlight, contains less mel-307 anin, the nail plate may work as a lens, and the inflam-308 matory reaction induces detachment of the nail plate 309 from the nail bed [45–47]. 310

311 18.3.2.3 Dyschromia

Hyperpigmentation that follows mainly an acute phototoxic reaction is frequently due to the residual melanocytic hyperpigmentation, and is very typical in
phytophotodermatitis, or after lichenoid reactions, e.g.,
from phenothiazines (Fig. 18.3).

In rare occasions, like those induced by flutamide, vitiliginous lesions with sharp limits occur after the acute photosensitive reaction [48, 49]. M. Gonçalo



Fig. 18.3 Lichenoid lesions and pigmentation in the photoexposed areas in a patient taking thioridazine for several months

Hyperpigmentation, or more precisely dyschromia, 320 may occur from the accumulation of the drug or drug 321 metabolites in the dermis, namely from amiodarone, 322 minocycline, and phenothiazines [50, 51]. Apart from 323 acute photosensitivity reaction that occurs more fre-324 quently, a smaller percentage of these patients, mainly 325 those with lower phototypes, develop a golden-brown, 326 slate gray, or bluish color on sun-exposed areas. This 327 discoloration develops later and persists much longer 328 than residual melanocytic hyperpigmentation [14, 50] 329 (Fig. 18.4). 330

18.3.2.4 Other Clinical Patterns

331

Telangiectasia as a manifestation of photosensitivity has 332 been reported with calcium channel blockers [52] and 333 the telangiectatic pattern of photoaging with lesions 334 mainly in the lateral folds of the neck, sparing the shaded 335

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Fig. 18.4 Chronic phototoxicity in a patient on a long-term treatment with minocycline. Note the lichenification, with ectropion and the brownish pigmentation (**a**) and onycholysis in all his fingers (**b**). Photoonycholysis can occur as an isolated manifestation of photosensitivity



skin under the chin, is frequently observed in patients chronically exposed to photoactive drugs. In rare cases, petechial purpura with sharp limits on shaded areas was described with ciprofloxacin [53].

Pellagra is associated with the prolonged use of isoniazid, which consumes niacin for its metabolization, and pellagroid reactions were reported with anticancer agents such as 6-mercaptopurin and 5-fluoruracil. 349

18.3.3 Delayed and Late Effects of Photosensitivity

346 18.3.3.1 Lupus Erythematosus

Cases of lupus erythematosus, both subacute and chronic, 347 have been attributed to the exposure to exogenous drugs/ 348 allergens and the sun. Most patients have anti-Ro auto-349 antibodies, the hallmark of photosensitivity in lupus ery-350 thematosus. Lesions develop weeks or months after 351 exposure on the exposed areas of face, neck, upper chest, 352 and arms, as erythematosus and scaling annular lesions 353 typical of subacute lupus erythematosus or, more rarely, 354 chronic lesions on the face or V of the neck [14]. This 355 was described initially for thiazide diuretics, calcium 356 channel blockers, ACE inhibitors [54], terbinafine [55], 357 and recently from the anticancer taxanes, paclitaxel, and 358 docetaxel [36, 56]. The drugs may enhance UV-induced 359 expression of the Ro antigen on the surface of keratino-360 cytes, interfere with apoptosis or cytokine production, 361 thereby promoting photosensitivity and the development 362 of skin lesions in susceptible individuals [54]. 363

364 18.3.3.2 Chronic Actinic Dermatitis

Chronic actinic dermatitis, more common in older 365 men, can present as a photosensitive eczema or, more 366 frequently, like a long-lasting chronic eczema with a 367 brown-gray hyperpigmentation, skin edema, licheni-368 fication that resemble its lymphomatoid variant, and 369 370 actinic reticuloid (Fig. 18.4). Also, on histology, large activated lymphocytes in the dermis mimic lym-371 phoma. Lesions are localized on the photoexposed 372 areas (face, sides and back of the neck, upper chest, 373 and dorsum of the hands and forearms) and are aggra-374 vated by sun exposure; even this may not be very 375 apparent because of the small amounts of UV neces-376 sary to aggravate the lesions. The hallmark of this dis-377 ease is the extreme photosensitivity, even on covered 378 areas, to UVB (reduced MED) and, often, also UVA 379 and visible light [7, 57]. 380

In many cases, these patients have previously suffered from an idiopathic photodermatosis, a chronic photodermatitis or, more frequently, from an airborne allergic contact dermatitis from perfumes, sesquiterpene lactones from Compositae, or colophony from conifers, and in its evolution, they become extremely

photosensitive even with no further exposure to an 387 exogenous chromophore or allergen. An autoantigen 388 (DNA or RNA modified by plant products or another 389 autoantigen) may have been formed during the acute 390 reaction or, may be the regular UV-induced immuno-391 suppression did not work correctly and individuals 392 were sensitized to this new autoantigen and devel-393 oped a reaction similar to allergic contact dermatitis 394 [17, 57]. 395

18.3.3.3 Enhancement of Photocarcinogenesis 396

Recent reports are documenting the relation between 397 exposure from photoactive molecules and increasing 398 incidence of actinic keratosis or squamous cell carci-399 noma, in a parallel of what was observed with long time 400 therapeutic exposure to PUVA. Apart from psoralens, 401 naproxen, chlorpromazine, and the fluorquinolones, 402 particularly lomefloxacin, also have the capacity to 403 induce DNA aggression upon UV exposure, in vitro, 404 and to increase epidermal neoplasia in animals [8, 9]. 405 This concern may have to be taken into account, namely 406 as severe photosensitivity associated with skin cancer 407 has been observed with voriconazole [16] and cipro-408 floxacin (personal experience) and epidemiological 409 studies seem to correlate exposure to photoactive drugs 410 and an increase in the risk of developing actinic kera-411 toses, nonmelanoma skin cancer and, even, malignant 412 melanoma [13, 15]. Also, photoaging may be enhanced 413 by the exposure to topical or systemic photosensitizers. 414

Core Message

 On a long term, skin exposure to photoactive substances may enhance photocarcinogenesis.

18.4 Main Topical and Systemic Photosensitizers

415

416

There is a large and increasing list of photoactive molecules to which we can be exposed to in our daily life and which can induce photosensitivity. But there has been increasing concern on the evaluation of the phototoxic potential, particularly of cosmetics and consumer 421

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products, and very important photosensitizers have been 422 eliminated or highly reduced in our ambience. These 423 "historical" photosensitizers are musk ambrette and 424 natural bergamot oil, removed by the perfume industry; 425 the sunscreen isopropyldibenzoylmethane, withdrawn 426 in 1994; the antibiotic olaquindox, a swine feed additive 427 banned in 1998 by the European Commission [58]; and 428 the halogenated salicylanilides removed from disinfec-429 tants and hygiene products in most countries since 1976. 430 Nevertheless, even though some products are not avail-431 able in Europe, they can be "imported" from other 432 countries and induce photosensitivity [58, 59]. 433

In most reports, the main topical photosensitizers 434 are the UV filters [3, 60, 61], which represent 56-80% 435 of the cases diagnosed by photopatch testing [3, 62-64]. 436 Furocoumarins from plants are an important source of photosensitivity, mainly in more sunny countries, and 438 drugs are, by far, the most frequent photosensitizers in 439

Southern Europe [62, 64–66]. 440

18.4.1 UV Filters 441

Due to the increased awareness of the sun damaging 442 effects, sunscreens are used in large amounts and UV 443 filters are also present in cosmetics, like moisturizing 444 and facial creams, lipstick, nail varnish, shampoos, and 445 other hair products. Apart from protecting the skin and 446 hair from solar aggression, they are intended to prevent 447 the degradation of the product by the sun and, there-448 fore, increase its shelf half life. But, happily, concur-449 rent with this high use, adverse skin reactions from UV 450 filters are not reported so frequently [3]. In recent stud-451 ies, positive photopatch tests or photoaggravated reac-452 tions to UV filters occurred in 5.7-12% of a total of 453 about 2,400 patients tested [4, 62, 64-67]. 454

The newer UV filters - Mexoryl SX (terephtalydene 455 dicamphor sulfonic acid), Tinosorb M (methylene-456 bis-benzotriazolyl tetramethylbutylphenol or bisoctri-457 zole), and Tinosorb S (bis-ethylhexyloxyphenol 458 methoxyphenyl triazine) - are photostable molecules 459 and, in mixtures of several sunscreens, are able to sta-460 bilize older photo labile UV filters, like butyl meth-461 oxydibenzoylmethane and cinnamates. Therefore, they 462 seem to be more efficient in protecting the skin from 463 the harmful effects of UVR [68] and eventually in 464 reducing photoallergic dermatitis, even from the other 465 UV filters. Apparently, a single case of photoallergy 466

was reported from Mexoryl SX [60] with no cases of 467 photoallergy from Tinosorb M or S. There are only 468 very rare cases of allergic contact dermatitis from the 469 surfactant decylglucoside that is used to solubilize the 470 active molecule of Tinosorb M [69, 70]. 471

The other UV filters have been responsible for aller-472 gic contact and/or photocontact dermatitis, or photoag-473 gravated contact dermatitis [4]. In the 50s and 60s, 474 PABA (p-aminobenzoic acid) was responsible for 475 many cases of allergic and photoallergic contact der-476 matitis (4% of the population in an American study) 477 [68] and, therefore, since then it was seldom used. 478 Nevertheless, a very recent case of photoallergic con-479 tact dermatitis was published [59]. 480

In the studies from the 70s till the end of the 90s, 481 most frequent photosensitizers are the UVA filters, oxy-482 benzone (benzophenone 3), and isopropyldibenzoyl-483 methane [31, 63, 64, 67, 71]. At present, the latter is not 484 produced anymore, and the other dibenzoylmethane on 485 the market, butyl methoxydibenzoylmethane, is not such 486 a potent photosensitizer. Many reactions previously 487 reported were probably due to a cross-reaction [71]. 488

Oxybenzone, still the most used UV filter, is being 489 replaced in many sunscreens. Those sunscreens having 490 a concentration higher than 0.5% must print a warn-491 ing on the label. Nevertheless, in this setting or as a 492 common ingredient in cosmetics, oxybenzone is still 493 the most frequently used UV filter responsible for pos-494 itive photopatch tests [4, 60, 64, 67]. Rarely, it can also 495 induce contact photocontact urticaria or anaphylaxis 496 [32]. Sulisobenzone (benzophenone 4) and mexenone 497 (benzophenone 10) induce allergic or photoallergic 498 contact dermatitis less frequently [64, 72, 73]. 499

Another concern on oxybenzone, and the other ben-500 zophenones, is related to its percutaneous absorption 501 and its environmental spread, which may be harmful 502 due to its potential estrogen-like effects [74]. 503

Cinnamates, namely isoamyl-p-methoxycinnamate 504 and ethylhexyl-p-methoxycinnamate, and 4-methyl-505 benzylidene camphor, phenylbenzimidazole sulfonic 506 acid, drometrizole trisiloxane (Mexoryl XL) and octyl 507 dimethyl PABA (Padimate O) are also regularly respon-508 sible for cases of photoallergy [3, 4, 62, 64, 66, 67]. 509 Other UVB filters, namely the salycilates (octylsaly-510 cilate and homosalate) and octocrylene are seldom 511 reported to cause allergic or photoallergic contact der-512 matitis [75, 76], except in an Italian study where 513 octocrylene was the most frequent UV filter responsi-514 ble for photopatch test reactions [66]. 515

[AU237

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Core Message

> UV filters in sunscreens or cosmetics are the main cause of photoallergic contact dermatitis.

516 18.4.2 Plants Causing 517 Phytophotodermatitis

Photoactive furocoumarins, e.g., bergapten, 5- and 518 8-methoxypsoralen, run in the sap of several plants, in 519 variable amounts, as a protection against fungus and 520 insects. Since the antiquity, these substances have been 521 used in folk Medicine (vitiligo) and, more recently, in 522 photochemotherapy (PUVA), and the aromatic oils rich 523 in furocoumarins were used by the cosmetic industry in 524 tanning oils and perfumes. As UV-induced skin pigmen-525 tation was proved to be a marker for DNA aggression, 526 the use of tanning oils has been considerably reduced, 527 and the natural bergamot oil responsible for "Berloque 528 dermatitis" from perfumes is no more used [77]. 529

Dermatitis can also occur from inadvertent contact 530 with these plants, both during recreation or in an occu-531 pational setting, e.g., rural workers or gardeners who 532 harvest fruits or vegetables (parsnip, figs) or cut bushes 533 and weeds (common rue - Ruta graveolans - burning 534 bush - Dictamus albus - or fig trees - Ficus carica) 535 [77, 78], or barmen who squeeze and peal lime (Citrus 536 aurantifolia) and other citrus fruits to prepare cocktails 537 in the sunny weather [77, 79, 80] (Fig. 18.5). 538

The most typical pattern of phytophotodermatitis was
 described by Oppenheim in 1934 – *dermatosis bullosa*



Fig. 18.5 Residual pigmentation in the forearms in a barman who had been squeezing limes and lemons for cocktails, during an outdoor summer festival (note limit due to glove protection)

striata pratensis. Linear streaks, corresponding to the contact with the damaged leaves of the plant, begin within 24–48 h with prickling erythema and, later, painful vesicles and bullae (Fig. 18.6). All these gradually give rise to long-lasting linear hyperpigmentation, which, sometimes, allows a retrospective diagnosis [80].

Another pattern is the "strimmer dermatitis" with a 547 diffuse involvement as the sap of the plant is sprayed 548 all over by the string trimmer [77]. Children who play 549 in nature were more prone to this dermatitis and, very 550 particularly, those making trumpets or pea shooters 551 from the hollow stems of the giant hogweed (Heracleum 552 *mantegazzianum*) developed blisters around their mouth 553 [77]. Very occasionally, the ingestion of these plants 554 can induce a systemic photosensitivity as in the cases 555 of celery, parsnip, or infusions of St. John's wort 556 (Hypericum perforatum L.) used to treat depression 557 [77, 81]. 558

Plants rich in furocoumarins causing phytophotodermatitis occur all over the globe and belong mainly to the families of Umbelliferae, Rutacea, and Moracea (Table 18.3). 562



Fig. 18.6 Phytophotodermatitis with linear streaks of erythema and bullae in the arms of a patient who had been cutting a fig tree during a sunny afternoon

18 Phototoxic and Photoallergic Reactions

t3.1	Table 18.3 Main agents causing exogenous photosensitivity
t3.2	Sunscreens
t3.3	Benzophenones: oxybenzone, sulisobenzone, mexenone
t3.4	Dibenzoylmethanes: butyl methoxydibenzoylmethane
t3.5 t3.6	Cinnamates: isoamyl-p-methoxycinnamate, ethylhexyl methoxycinnamate
t3.7	PABA and analogs: p-aminobenzoic acid; padimate O
t3.8 t3.9	Other: 4-methylbenzylidene camphor, phenylbenzimidazole sulfonic acid, octocrylene, drometrizole trisiloxane
t3.10	Plants (main Families in Europe)
t3.11 t3.12 t3.13	Umbelliferae: Ammi majus, Apium graveolens (celery), Pastinaca sativa (parsnip), Petroselinum crispum (parsley), Heracleum mantegazzianum (giant hogweed)
t3.14 t3.15 t3.16	Rutacea: Citrus spp, Citrus aurantica v. bergamia (berga- mot), Citrus aurantifolia (lime), Citrus limon (lemon), Ruta graveolans (common rue), Dictamus albus (burning bush)
t3.17	Moracea: Ficus carica (fig)
t3.18	Drugs (see details in Table 18.4)
t3.19	"Historical" photosensitizers ^a
t3.20	Perfumes: musk ambrette and bergamot oil
t3.21 t3.22	Halogenated salicylanilides: tetrachlorsalicylanilide, trichlorocarbanilide, tribromsalicylanide
t3.23	Sunscreens: isopropyldibenzoylmethane, PABA
t3.24	Antibiotics: olaquindox
t3.25	Dyes: eosin, acridine orange, and acriflavin
t3.26	^a Although "historical," some still induce photoallergic contact der

t3.27 matitis

Core Message

> *Dermatosis bullosa striata pratensis*, with linear lesions that regress with hyperpigmentation, is a phototoxic dermatitis from psoralen rich plants.

563 18.4.3 Photosensitive Drugs

According to the results of the photopatch series in Southern European countries, drugs are by far the main cause of exogenous photoallergy, whereas in the Northern countries sunscreens occupy the first rank as photosensitizers [62, 64–66]. This may be due to different prescription habits or because NSAIDs, the main drugs responsible for positive photopatch tests, were 570 not regularly included in most photopatch test series. 571

Drugs used systemically, applied topically, or han-572 dled in an occupational setting can induce photosensi-573 tivity. Carprofen, a NSAID no more used in humans, 574 induced photoallergic contact dermatitis in workers 575 who manufacture the drug for animals [82, 83]. Also, 576 we observed cases of photosensitivity in nurses and 577 family members who had to smash the tablets of chlor-578 promazine to give to their patients/relatives [62]. 579

Systemically, antimicrobials, particularly tetracyclines, 580 fluorquinolones, sulfonamides, and some antifungals 581 (voriconazole, griseofulvin), NSAIDs, phenothiazines, 582 and cardiovascular drugs are mainly responsible for photosensitivity, whereas after topical application, NSAIDs 583 are by far the most frequent cause [62, 64–66]. 585

Core Message

> Topical NSAIDs (ketoprofen) and systemic antibiotics (fluorquinolones, tetracyclines) can induce photoallergic contact dermatitis or systemic photosensitivity.

18.4.3.1 Antimicrobials

Systemic tetracyclines, particularly doxycycline and 587 minocycline, are highly phototoxic and induce photoonycholysis and pseudoporphyria and, the latter can also induce a bluish persistent pigmentation [51, 52] (Fig. 18.4). 591

The fluorquinolones induce phototoxic reactions, 592 in some cases presenting as pseudoporphyria [40], as 593 initially described for the first quinolone antibiotic, 594 nalidixic acid [51], or as purpura in a case by cipro-595 floxacin [53]. Phototoxicity is particularly important 596 and frequent (4-15% of treated patients) with fleroxa-597 cin, lomefloxacin, sparfloxacin, and pefloxacin and 598 less frequent with ciprofloxacin, norfloxacin, ofloxa-599 cin, and enoxacin [14]. This can be reduced with drug 600 intake by the end of the day, to reduce drug concen-601 trations in the circulation and in the skin during the 602 midday. Photoallergy has also been reported with 603 lomefloxacin [20, 21] and enoxacin [51], sometimes 604 with cross-reaction to other fluorquinolones (cipro-605 floxacin and flerofloxacin) [84, 85]. Experimental 606

586

studies proved the photoallergenicity of fluorquinolo-607 18 608 nes, with positive lymphocyte stimulation tests and drug specific Th1 cells that recognize skin cells com-609 bined with UV-irradiated ofloxacin [86]. The fluor-610 quinolones also photosensitize DNA and may be 611 612 photomutagenic and photocarcinogenic [8]. We had the opportunity to observe a patient on long-term cip-613 rofloxacin therapy for multiresistent tuberculosis, 614 who developed photosensitivity and highly aggres-615 sive squamous cell carcinomas on the face. 616

Sulphonamide antibacterials, as well as sulfa-drug 617 analogs (thiazidic diuretics, hypoglycemic sulfonylu-618 reas, and celecoxib) and dapsone (diamidiphenylsul-619 fone), have been reported to cause photosensitivity 620 within the spectrum both of UVB and UVA [51, 87, 88], 621 but this side effect is not so frequent with the most cur-622 rently used cotrimoxazole (trimethoprim/sulfamethox-623 azole) [14, 51]. 624

[AU528

Griseofulvin is a known phototoxic drug and can aggravate lupus erythematosus, as the more recent antifungal, terbinafine, which also induced subacute lupus erythematosus in patients with anti-Ro antibodies [55]. Another antifungal, still from a different chemical group, voriconazole, has recently been reported to cause severe photosensitivity [7] and was considered

responsible for skin cancer [16, 28, 43].

633 18.4.3.2 Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs

Benoxaprofen marketed between 1980 and 1982 called 634 the attention to photosensitivity from this class of drugs. 635 Thereafter, all the other arylpropionic derivatives (car-636 profen, naproxen, suprofen, tiaprofenic acid, ketoprofen, 637 ibuprofen) and NSAIDs from other groups (azapropa-638 zone, diclofenac, piroxicam, fenilbutazone, celecoxib, 639 benzydamine, etofenamate) have been shown to cause 640 photosensitivity [39]. 641

Most topically applied NSAIDs are absorbed 642 through the skin and cause distant lesions, resembling 643 systemic photosensitivity. Benzydamine, widely used 644 in the oral or genital mucosa, causes photosensitivity 645 at distant sites [89], eventually after systemic absorp-646 tion [29, 65] and, when used in the mouth, can induce 647 cheilitis and chin dermatitis as a manifestation of pho-648 toallergy [29, 62]. 649

Although not the most sold, ketoprofen and piroxicam cause most cases of photosensitivity [62, 64, 65, 90]. Contrary to most other drugs, photoallergy is 655

mainly involved with very particular patterns of crossreactivity. 653

Ketoprofen

Ketoprofen, particularly when used topically, is respon-656 sible for severe photoallergic reactions [7, 91], often 657 with edema, bullae or erythema multiform, extending 658 well beyond the area of application [34, 35, 92], due to 659 contamination of the hands or other personal objects or 660 due to systemic absorption [92]. Reactions may recur 661 on sun exposure with no apparent further drug applica-662 tion [34, 91], but they do not fulfill the criteria for the 663 diagnosis of persistent photosensitivity. Some may be 664 explained by persistence of the drug in the skin (at least 665 17 days) [92] by contact with previously contaminated 666 objects, even after washing [26], or from exposure to 667 cross-reactive chemicals [34]. 668

Although such a high frequency might suggest pho-669 totoxicity, the clinical pattern with erythema multiform, 670 positive lymphocyte stimulation tests with ketoprofen 671 photomodified cells, animal studies with the absence of 672 phototoxic potential [93], the capacity to photosensitize 673 and transfer photoallergy by T-cells, both CD4 and CD8 674 exhibiting chemokine receptors for Th1 and Th2, 675 in vitro activation and maturation of antigen-presenting 676 cells by ketoprofen and UVA, [35, 94, 95], and charac-677 terization of a stable photoproduct - 3-ethyl-benzophe-678 none [34, 96] – highly support a photoallergic reaction. 679

Cross-reactions occur between arylpropionic acid 680 derivatives that share the benzophenone radical, namely 681 tiaprofenic acid and suprofen, and are not extensive to 682 naproxen or ibuprofen. As that radical is common to 683 the benzophenone UV filters, cross-reactions are com-684 mon with sunscreens containing mainly oxybenzone 685 [96]. A similar structure is present in the systemic 686 hypolipemic agent, fenofibrate, that also induces sys-687 temic photosensitivity with cross-reactions with keto-688 profen [62] and, in patients taking this drug, it was a 689 risk factor for more severe photoallergic contact der-690 matitis from ketoprofen [91, 96]. 691

These patients have a higher reactivity, in patch 692 tests, to balsam of Peru and perfume mix I, particularly 693 cinnamic aldehyde [34, 97], still not completely 694 explained. 695

Analogs of ketoprofen, piketoprofen, and dexketoprofen also cause photosensitivity with cross-reactivity to ketoprofen [98, 99]. 18 Phototoxic and Photoallergic Reactions

699 Piroxicam

Piroxicam is a well-known photosensitizer since the 700 80s. Although there was some enigma to explain this [AU60]1 photosensitivity at the beginning [100], soon a relation 702 703 was established with contact sensitivity to thiomersal [101, 102], more precisely to thiosalicylic acid [24], one 704 of the sensitization moieties most frequently responsi-705 ble for contact allergy to thiomersal [103]. Actually, 706 upon low UVA irradiation, piroxicam decomposes and 707 gives rise to a photoproduct structurally similar to 708 thiosalicylic acid, UVA-irradiated solutions of piroxi-709 cam induce positive patch tests in thiosalicylic allergic 710 patients [24, 39, 103, 104], animals sensitized by 711 thiosalicylic acid develop photosensitivity from piroxi-712 cam, and their lymphocytes are stimulated both by 713 thiosalicylic acid and by piroxicam, in the presence of 714 UVA [25]. 715

Photoallergy from piroxicam can occur both from
topical application and systemic use and, although it is
becoming less frequent, probably because of the replacement of this NSAIDs by the newer drugs [23], it is still
observed in Southern Europe [29, 64–66].

Systemic photosensitivity usually occurs within
24–48 h after the first drug intakes, as the individuals
have been previously been sensitized though thiomersal.
It can present as an acute eczema involving diffusely the
whole face (Fig. 18.2) or, often, as scattered erythematosus papules and vesicles on the face and dorsum of the
hands and dyshidrosis [19, 23, 105, 106]

These patients do not react, neither on photopatch nor on drug rechallenge, to tenoxicam, meloxicam, or lornoxicam, as these oxicams do not share the thiosalicylate moiety [24, 107]. Nevertheless, it is important to remember that cross-reactivity between piroxicam and these oxicams occurs regularly in fixed drug eruption [108, 109].

735 18.4.3.3 Other Drugs as Photosensitizers

Phenothiazines used systemically (chlorpromazine 736 and thioridazine) can induce photosensitivity, often 737 with a lichenoid pattern and with residual pigmenta-738 tion [52] (Fig. 18.3). Promethazine, still being used as 739 a topical antipruritic, at least in Portugal, Greece, and 740 Italy [62, 66, 110], and its analog chlorproethazine, 741 742 which is being marketed in France as Neuriplege® cream for muscle pain (Genevrier, Antibes, France) 743

are frequent causes of photoallergic contact dermatitis 744 in these countries [111, 112]. 745

The list of drugs causing photosensitivity is very 746 large and always increasing; therefore, whenever a 747 patient has a photosensitive eruption a systematic inquiry 748 for drugs should be carefully conducted (Table 18.4). 749 The complementary methods for its diagnosis, photopatch testing and photoprovocation, will be the object of 751 Chap. 29. 752

Table 19.4 Main drugs cousing avaganous photosonsitivity

Table 16.4 Main drugs causing exogenous photosensitivity	- (4.1
Antimicrobials	t4.2
Tetracyclines (doxycycline, minocycline)	t4.3
Sulphonamides (sulfamethoxazole)	t4.4
Fluorquinolones (lomefloxacin ^a , ciprofloxacin ^a)	t4.5
Voriconazole, griseofulvin	t4.6
Efavirenz	t4.7
Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)	t4.8
Arylpropionic acids	t4.9
Ketoprofen, ^b tiaprofenic acid, ^a suprofen, naproxen, ibuprofen, ibuproxam, carprofen	t4.10 t4.11
Piroxicam ^c	t4.12
Benzydamine, ^a etofenamate ^d	t4.13
Azapropazone, diclofenac, fenilbutazone, indometacine	t4.14
Phenothiazines	t4.15
Chlorpromazine, thioridazine	t4.16
Promethazine ^a , chlorproethazine	t4.17
Antidepressants	t4.18
Clomipramine, imipramine, sertraline	t4.19
Cardiovascular drugs	t4.20
Amiodarone, quinidine	t4.21
Furosemide and thiazide diuretics	t4.22
Anticancer agents	t4.23
Paclitaxel, 5-fluoruracil, dacarbazine, methotrexate	t4.24
Miscellaneous	t4.25
Flutamide, sulfonylureas	t4.26
Fenofibrate, simvastatin	t4.27
^a Induce photoallergic and allergic contact dermatitis	t4.28
^b Although phototoxic, can induce photoallergic reactions ^c Induces mainly systemic photoallergy	t4.29 t4.30
^d Induces mainly allergic contact dermatitis	t4.31

753

18

18.5 Conclusions

Phototoxic and photoallergic reactions are still a frequent 754 problem, with a highly polymorphic clinical presenta-755 tion and variations in the responsible agents according to 756 geographical areas, and along the years, as new photo-757 sensitizers come into the market whereas others are 758 abandoned. Therefore, we must be highly alert to sus-759 pect the involvement of an exogenous chromophore in a 760 761 photosensitive patient, to conduct the questionnaire in this sense, and to proceed to further complementary tests 762 to prove such a diagnosis and, consequently, advise the 763 patient concerning further eviction of the photosensitizer 764 and related chemicals. 765

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Author Queries

Chapter No.: 18

Query	Details Required	Author's Response
AU1	Technical terms have been spelled wrongly in many instances. We have corrected them. Please check the same.	
AU2	Please check whether the edited table18.2 is appropriate.	
AU3	Please check whether the edit is ok.	
AU4	In the sentence, 'Systemically, antimicrobials' please check if the insertion of the words 'for photosensitivity' is appropriate.	
AU5	Please confirm this deletion.	
AU6	Please mention the appropriate year.	

uncorrected