Information on Drug-Induced Photosensitivity

There are many drugs available at the moment that can cause the skin to become very sensitive to light. Whether these drugs are taken by mouth or applied to the skin a reaction can occur. This reaction is called “Drug-Induced Photosensitivity”. Therefore, it is very important that you read this information and notify the Doctor/Operator of any drugs that you may be using.

**Photosensitivity reactions can be divided into two groups:**

**Photo-Toxic Reactions**
- These are dose related and can be seen to a slight degree in people who are exposed to sunlight.

**Photo-Allergic Reactions**
- These involve the immune system and may be similar to other allergic reactions, swelling, rashes and hives.

The drugs cause this reaction by absorbing the Equipment light (which is in the visible part of the spectrum) that is delivered by our system.

**Types of Photosensitivity**
- Abnormal and extreme sunburn
- Stinging and burning
- Vesicles
- Hives
- Swelling

There is a large variation in the frequency and severity of reactions from client to client. Some clients may blister, have a slight unnoticeable reaction, or will have no reaction at all. For this reason it is advisable that test patches are carried out to determine if any adverse reactions occur.
Common Drugs That Can Cause Photosensitive Reactions

Antibiotics
- Dioxidcylcine (Vibramycin, Vibratabs)
- Demeclocycline (Declomycin) – High incidence.
- Tetracycline (Achromycin and others)
- Nalidixic Acid (NegGram)
- Lomefloxacin (Maxaquin) – Especially noted for severe reactions when they occur.

Blood Pressure and Heart Medications
- Hydrochlorothiazide (Hydrodiuril, Oretic and other names) – Many drugs contain HCTZ as one of the ingredients.
- Chlorothiazide (Diuril and other names)
- Furosemide (Lasix)
- Amiodarone (Cordarone) - High incidence of drug-induced photo-reactions.

Other Drugs
- Chlorpromazine (Thorazine)
- Methoxypsoralin
- PABA and/or PABA esters – Used in sunscreens, can cause hives and rashes.

Common Drugs That Cause Photosensitive Reactions Less Often
- Alprazolam (Xanax)
- Amitriptyline (Elavil, Endep and other names)
- Benzocaine (Sensorcaine and many other numbing products)
- Captopril (Capoten)
- Chloradiazepoxide (Librium)
- Chloroquine
- Clortettracycline
- Ciprofloxacin (Cipro)
- Co-trimoxazole (Bactrim, Septra)
- Dapsone
- Diltiazem (Cardizem, and other names)
- Diphenhydramine (Benadryl, Benylin and other names)
- Enoxacin (Penetrex)
- Oestrogens (Birth Control Pills, Premarin and more)
- Fluoracil (5-FU)
- Glyburide (Diabeta, Micronase, Glynase, and other names)
- Griseofulvin (GrisPeg, Fulvicin, and other names)
- Haloperidol (Haldol)
- Hydralazine (Apresoline)
- Ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin, and more)
- Isoniazid (INH) Isotretinoin (Accutane)
- Methotrexate Minoxidil (Loniten, Rogaine)
- Naproxen (Naprosen, Alleve, other names)
- Nifedipine (Procardia, Adalat)
- Norfloxacin (Noroxin) Nortriptyline (Aventyl, and other names)
- Ofloxacin (Floxin)
- Oral Contraceptives
- Oxytetracycline (Terramycin)
- Perfenazine (Trilafon)
- Phenylbutazone (Butazolidin)
- Phenytoin (Dilantin)
- Piroxicam (Feldene)
- Prochlorperazine (Compazine)
- Promethazine (Phenergan)
- Protriptyline (Vivactil)
- Quinidine (Quinidex, Quinaglute, Cardioquin, other names)
- Quinine (Quinamm)
- Sulfonamide antibiotics (Bactrim, Septra, Gantrisin, and others)
- Thioridazine (Mellaril)
- Thiothixene (Navane)
- Tolbutamide (Tolinase)
- Tretinoin (Retin-A)
- Trifluoperazine (Stellazine)
- Vitamin A