



# DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATES of GEORGIA

Decatur  
1951 Clairmont Road  
Decatur, GA 30033  
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Johns Creek  
4285 Johns Creek Parkway  
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770-622-4412 • Fax 770-622-4191

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201 Michael Etchison Road  
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DeKalb Medical Center  
2665 North Decatur Road  
Suite 650  
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Piedmont  
2061 Peachtree Road  
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Atlanta, GA 30309  
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We welcome the opportunity to see and evaluate your skin problems related to possible **contact allergy or irritation** from agents that normally get on the skin from outside the body. These agents frequently are in our daily lifestyle, such as cosmetics, toiletries, clothing dyes, and over-the-counter or prescription topical medications. There is also a fair amount of industrial and occupational rashes to exposed chemicals at work or with hobbies.

It should be made clear that our dermatology patch test **do not** relate to the tests routinely done by an allergist for respiratory or food allergies, such as dust, molds, pollens, grasses, trees, or food groups. These tests are best performed by qualified allergists or tested via a blood profile known as Immunocap. Wheals, or hives (a problem known as “urticaria” medically), are seen by dermatologists or allergists, often both. Patch testing for hives occasionally will reveal a cause of an external agent as the offender. Also, on occasion, a drug allergy or reaction may be evaluated by patch testing, but usually in combination with other clinical or laboratory studies.

Please read the enclosed forms thoroughly and fill out completely and honestly to the best of your ability. You may have to get help from a knowledgeable family member, relative, friend, or employer. Also please fill in the body picture map and notes where your rash **first started**, and where it has **now spread**. Pay particular attention to all creams and remedies you have been using on your skin before and after the rash started, and write them down. You must **bring in** a box or bag of your personal care or work related items that you think are causing the problem **on your first visit**, including any medicines you are taking or putting on your skin. These should be limited to 5 to 15 items.

For patch testing we normally schedule your first patching visit on a **Monday** and you must plan to have the test read on **Wednesday** and **Friday** of the same week. Any changes to the days of patch testing and their readings must be approved and scheduled with our office in advance. A consult is usually required before the start of any testing. Until further notice, you should travel to, or stay in, the Atlanta area for these visits. This part is not usually insurance reimbursable, so an

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(Continued)

Inexpensive hotel or a relative or friend living here is a great value if you reside out of town.

Please remember that the chemical tests are **taped on your back for at least 2 days**, and you must not swim, bathe, exercise, or sweat such that they get wet or the markings or tests come loose. You may do a limited sponge bath, or shower the front of your body carefully, and use more tape to reinforce the test areas if necessary.

Please read over all handouts several times and answer all questions you think apply to your situation. We will review at your appointment.

The **diagnosis code** for contact dermatitis is ICD-10 code L25.9 and the **patch test procedure** is CPT code 95044. The current and usual fee is \$13.00 per individual patch, times the number put on, and visit charges are additional. You will be required to pay a copay for each visit. It is not unusual for customary charges for services to run \$850.00 to \$1900.00 depending upon the complexity of the evaluation. While insurance may cover this to a great extent, depending on your plan, you may incur some personal charges. You may wish to contact your insurance carrier in advance using the above code numbers to determine the extent of your coverage.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in advance. We look forward to serving your dermatological needs for patch testing. Please call 770-622-4412 if you have any questions not answered by the handouts.

Sincerely,

J. Thomas Apgar, M.D.

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