



## Octocrylene

### What are the aims of the leaflet?

This leaflet has been written to help you understand more about your contact allergy. It tells you what a contact allergy is, what causes this allergy and what you can do about it.

### What is contact allergy?

Dermatitis (also known as eczema) describes a type of inflammation of the skin.

Contact dermatitis (contact eczema) is a term used when this inflammation is caused by direct or indirect skin contact with something in your environment.

Allergic contact dermatitis occurs when your immune system causes allergy to a very specific chemical or substance that has been in contact with the skin.

### What causes your specific allergy?

Your patch tests indicate you have a contact allergy to **OCTOCRYLENE**.

Octocrylene is a sunscreen. This is a chemical which absorbs ultraviolet rays. It does not break down when exposed to light and therefore it is also used in products to help improve stability and so extend shelf-life. Usefully, it has water resistant properties.

Octocrylene may also be labelled as:

- Eusolex OCR
- Uvinyl N 539T
- 2-ethylhexyl-2-cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylate
- 2-ethylhexyl 2-cyano-3,3-diphenylprop-2-enoate
- 2-Cyano-3,3-diphenylacrylic acid 2'-ethylhexyl ester
- 2'-ethylhexyl 2-cyano-3-phenylcinnamate

Octocrylene may be found in the following products:

- Sunscreens eg. creams, lotions, gels, lip balms etc.
- Cosmetic products eg. foundation, nail varnish
- Personal care products eg. moisturiser creams, eye creams, shampoo, conditioner, fragrances

### **How can I manage my allergy?**

This means that you should avoid products containing octocrylene in the future. You should also avoid another sunscreen chemical called Benzophenone-3 and anti-inflammatory **Ketoprofen** gel/patches, as you may have cross reactions.

### **Self -care (what can I do?)**

Always check the ingredient listing on the product, package or package insert as these lists can never be complete and ingredients change.

### **Where can I get more information about my contact allergy?**

[www.skinhealthinfo.org.uk/a-z-conditions-treatment](http://www.skinhealthinfo.org.uk/a-z-conditions-treatment)