

Patient Information

p-Phenylenediamine

Your TRUE TEST[®] indicates that you have a contact allergy to p-phenylenediamine (PPD).

p-Phenylenediamine (PPD) in contact with your skin may result in dermatitis. Even brief or occasional contact may provoke allergic dermatitis

p-Phenylenediamine (PPD) is a blue black dye and sometimes called a "coal tar" dye.

Where is p-Phenylenediamine found?

PPD is often found in permanent hair dyes as well as textile and fur dyes. It may be found in dark-colored cosmetics and is employed as skin paint and is added to henna mixtures for temporary tattoos. It is used in photocopying and printing inks, photographic developer and lithography plates may contain PPD or related chemicals as well as oils, greases and gasoline.

PPD is used as an antioxidant in rubber and plastic.

How to avoid p-Phenylenediamine

When you have your hair dyed, ask for dyes that are free of PPD and PPD related compounds such as p-toluenediamine, p-aminodiphenylamine, 2,4-diaminoanisole and p-aminophenol. Inspect the ingredient list of all coloring cosmetics for PPD and its synonyms. Nitrile Gloves or Vinyl Exam Gloves may protect hairdressers from direct contact.

Avoid wearing dark-colored clothing (blue, black or brown).

You may wish to avoid sunscreens or creams that contain PABA (para-aminobenzoic acid or p-aminobenzoic acid) and products containing benzocaine, since some people allergic to PPD will react to these products.

If you suspect that you are being exposed to this allergen at work, consult your employer regarding Material Safety Data Sheets.

Inform your healthcare providers that you are allergic to PPD.

What to look for

Synonyms for p-phenylenediamine

- p-Phenylenediamine (INCI Name)
- 1,4-Benzenediamine
- Paraphenylenediamine (PPD or PPDA)
- Para-aminoaniline (p-aminoaniline)
- 1,4-Penylenediamine
- Paradiaminobenzene (p-diaminobenzene)

Related substances to which you may react

- Textile dyes of the azo type
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- Black rubber products
- Diaminodiphenylmethane (epoxy hardener)
- 2,4-Diaminoanisole
- p-aminophenol (4-aminophenol)
- PABA-based sunscreens or creams
- para-aminosalicylic acid (p-aminosalicylic acid)
- para-aminodiphenylamine (p-amino-diphenylamine)
- paratoluenediamine (p-toluenediamine)
- Semipermanent hair dyes
- Some "caine" drugs such as benzocaine*
- Sulfonamides*
- Sulfones*
- Sulfa drugs*

*Occasionally, individuals allergic to PPD may react to some of the medications listed on this page. However, most individuals allergic to PPD will not have problems with these medications. Before you change or stop your medication, you should discuss this with your physician.

The lists may not be complete.

When purchasing products which may come in contact with your skin, check the list of ingredients for any of the names listed above. If in doubt contact your pharmacist or physician.

This information does not substitute the information given by your health care providers and can only be seen as a supplement.