

〈会頭講演〉

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**Photoallergy**

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**Abstract**

Photoallergy is an immunologic reaction in which light energy may play a certain role in the formation of antigens. Endogenous and exogenous substances can be transformed to antigens by sunlight radiation. These light-induced antigens (photoproducts) can develop both immediate and delayed types of photoallergy. Therefore, there may be theoretically at least 4 types of photoallergic reactions; endogenous and exogenous immediate, and endogenous and exogenous delayed photoallergy. Immediate photoallergic reaction is clinically solar urticaria. The majority of solar urticaria is induced by endogenous factors, but exogenous photosensitizers have been rarely identified. Photoallergic reactions of delayed hypersensitivity can be induced by either topically or systemically applied exogenous chemicals. The reaction manifests as an eczematous change. The mechanism of photoallergic contact dermatitis is closely similar to that of allergic contact sensitivity. However, the exact role of light has not been fully elucidated. Persistent light reaction and actinic reticuloid can develop from this type. Polymorphous light eruption may belong to endogenous, delayed photoallergic reaction, although the photosensitizers have not been identified. In the present article, an attempt was made to classify photoallergic reactions mainly based on our own clinical and experimental data.

**Key words:** photoallergy, solar urticaria, polymorphous light eruption, photocontact dermatitis, persistent light reactor.