Physical urticaria

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DESCRIPTION

A 23-year-old woman with medical history of allergic asthma, physical urticarias (cold-induced and dermatographism) and allergic rhinitis presented with pruritic hives and swelling on her hands 20 min after playing the cello (*figure 1A,B*). The angioedema lasted from 45 min to 1 hour. A vibratory challenge test using a vortex mixer was

Figure 1 (A,B) Pruritic hives and swelling on hands after playing the cello. (C,D) Positive challenge test before and after the application of vortex mixer, respectively.

Learning points

- ▶ Physical urticarias are identified by history and physical factors and stimuli provoking cutaneous symptoms.
- ▶ Diagnosis is confirmed by challenge/provocation test.
- ▶ Refractory physical urticarias may be treated with omalizumab in refractory case.

performed on her forearm (*figure 1C*). This resulted in urticarial/angioedema within 5 min (*figure 1D*). Her other physical urticarias responded well to high-dose antihistamines, leukotriene receptor blocker and omalizumab. She continued to have vibratory angioedema despite these medications.

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