Abstract
Background: Palladium has become an important contact allergen because of increased use in industry, jewelry, and dentistry.
Objective: To determine the frequency of palladium allergy in a US patch-test population tested to palladium.
Methods: A 10-year retrospective review (1997-2006) was performed on patients sensitive to palladium at the Department of Dermatology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN.
Results: A total of 910 patients were tested to a series that included palladium chloride 2% in petrolatum. A palladium-positive patch-test result was noted in 110 patients (12.1%). Of the 106 patients sensitized to palladium who had records available for review, 15.1% had a diagnosis of lichen planus-like eruptions; 13.2%, burning mouth; 27.4%, stomatitis; and 29.2%, hand and body dermatitis.
Conclusion: Palladium sensitivity is more common in oral diseases than in skin. We describe a previously unknown high degree of co-reactivity of gold with palladium to the same degree as the known co-reactivity with nickel.

Keywords: gold; Pd; alloy; jewellery.

Riassunto
Il Palladio è diventato un importante allergene da contatto grazie all’incremento del suo utilizzo nell’industria, in gioielleria ed in ambito dentistico. Questa ricerca si propone di determinare l’incidenza di un tale tipo di allergia. La sensibilità al palladio comporta molto più comunemente malattie orali che non di pelle.