



RE: Concerns About T.R.U.E TEST® (Allergen Patch Test) Panel Adherence

Dear Health Care Professional,

The information below represents a compilation of manufacturer recommendations and published patch testing information. Overall, data compiled from multi-center studies show either perfect, good, or satisfactory adherence in 89-99% of tests performed with T.R.U.E. TEST. However, in clinical practices, additional tape may be necessary to prevent loss of panel adherence.

Clinical Studies of T.R.U.E. TEST Panel Adherence:

For example, in 292 patients, tape adherence was reported to be “perfect” in 89% of the T.R.U.E. TEST patch tests, compared with 86% of the Finn Chamber test that used an acrylic tape (Lysapore, Sweden).¹ Only two T.R.U.E. TEST and four Finn Chamber strips came off completely. In a follow-up study, T.R.U.E. TEST adherence was perfect in 95% of cases, compared with 89% with Finn Chambers and tape (n = 367).² A multi-center study of 698 patients found tape adherence was significantly better (p<0.001) for T.R.U.E. TEST as compared to Finn Chambers attached with Scanpor tape.³

Realities of Clinical Practice:

Perfect adherence of T.R.U.E. TEST panels in clinical practice may be effected by several patient-centered factors including: 1) interference by dermatitis or hair; 2) a patient’s physical activity; 3) a patient’s excessive perspiration; 4) very humid or hot climactic extremes; 5) oily skin and 6) topical skin treatments applied prior to patch application. In addition, improper panel application or placement by health care professional can also adversely effect adherence.

To optimize T.R.U.E. TEST panel adherence, position panels approximately 5 cm from the midline of the back. Smooth tape outward from the center of the panels toward the edges. Do not apply panels over the vertebrae, scapula margin or areas subjected to movement.

If needed, extra adhesion can be obtained by placing 1-2 inch wide hypoallergenic tape (e.g. Scanpor®) perpendicular to the patches, over the top and bottom of each panel leaving one

¹ Ruhnke-Forsbeck M, Fischer T, Meding B, et al. Comparative multi-center study with T.R.U.E. TEST and Finn Chambers patch test methods in eight Swedish hospitals. Acta Derm Venereol (Stockh) 1988;68: 123-128.

² T.R.U.E. TEST Study Group. Comparative multi-center studies with T.R.U.E. TEST and Finn Chambers in eight Swedish hospitals. J Am Acad Dermatol 1989; 21:846-849.

³ La Chapelle JM, Bruynzeel DP, Ducombs G, et al. European multi-center study of the T.E.S.T. TEST. Contact Dermatitis 1988;19:91-97

inch over the patch and one inch on the patient's skin. Avoid applying tape over the patch areas where the squares are located.

Please let us know if we can provide any further information about patch testing with T.R.U.E. TEST that may be helpful to you or your patients. Feel free to contact us directly if you have any questions 800-878-3837.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim M. Sullivan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kim M. Sullivan
V.P. SmartPractice
(602) 225-0595 x7274