



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 multicenter studies show either perfect, good, or satisfactory adhesion in 89-99% of tests performed with T.R.U.E. TEST. However, in clinical practice, additional tape may be necessary to prevent loss of panel adhesion.

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

For example, in 292 patients, tape adhesion was reported to be "perfect" in 89% of the T.R.U.E. TEST patch tests, compared with 86% of the Finn Chamber tests 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 adhesion was perfect in 95% of cases, compared with 89% with Finn Chambers and tape (n = 367).² A multicenter study of 698 patients found tape adhesion 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 professionals 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 2-inch wide hypoallergenic tape (e.g., Scanpor®) perpendicular to the patches, over the top and bottom of each panel leaving one 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 T.R.U.E. TEST panels adhere poorly at 1-800-365-6868.

Sincerely,

Pamela Rodgers, Ph.D.
Technical Services (X510)
AllerDerm, a SmartPractice affiliate

References:

1. Ruhnek-Forsbeck M, Fischer T, Meding B, *et al.* Comparative multi-center study with TRUE TEST and Finn Chambers patch test methods in eight Swedish hospitals. *Acta Derm Venereol (Stockh)* 1988;68:123-128.
2. TRUE TEST™ Study Group. Comparative multicenter studies with TRUE 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 multicenter study of the TRUE TEST™ . *Contact Dermatitis* 1988;19:91-97.