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Title: Wheezing in a commercial diver due to disinfectant

Authors: Watt, SJ

Keywords: saturation  
asthma  
commercial  
disinfectant  
case report

Issue Date: 1991

Abstract: A case is described of a saturation diver with no previous history of asthma who repeatedly developed work-related symptoms of asthma at pressure, which appear to be causally related to the use of dichlorophen as a disinfectant agent. Although challenge tests were negative, suggesting that dichlorophen may have been acting as an irritant rather than as a sensitizer, the symptoms were abolished by the use of an alternative disinfectant agent. The potential importance of this effect in a diver is discussed, and the case highlights the importance of the use of nontoxic agents in the diving environment.

Description: Undersea and Hyperbaric Medical Society, Inc. (<http://www.uhms.org> )

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