

## PLANT DERMATITIS

### Background

This case definition was developed by the Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center (AFHSC) for the purpose of epidemiological surveillance of a condition important to military-associated populations. Among military members, plant dermatitis can cause significant temporary disability and lost-duty time.<sup>1</sup>

### Clinical Description

Plant dermatitis is an allergic inflammatory skin reaction in response to the sap of poisonous plants. In the United States, plant dermatitis is most commonly caused by the *Toxicodendron* (formerly *Rhus*) species, i.e. poison ivy, poison oak and poison sumac.<sup>2</sup> In sensitized individuals, responses to the oils of the plants at the sites of exposure produce intense redness and pruritus (itch); severe cases can result in edema, fluid-filled vesicles or bullae, and extreme discomfort. Plant dermatitis lasts approximately three weeks and is usually self-limiting. Symptoms, however, can persist up to six weeks in highly susceptible individuals.<sup>1</sup>

### Case Definition and Incidence Rules

For surveillance purposes, a case of plant dermatitis is defined as:

- *One hospitalization or outpatient medical encounter* with a defining diagnosis of plant dermatitis (see ICD9 and ICD10 code lists below) in *any* diagnostic position.

#### **Incidence rules:**

For individuals who meet the case definition:

- The incidence date is considered the date of the first hospitalization or outpatient medical encounter that includes a defining diagnosis of plant dermatitis.
- An individual is considered an incident case only *once every 30 days*.

#### **Exclusions:**

- None

<sup>1</sup> Armed Forces Health Surveillance Center. Plant Dermatitis, Active Component, 2001-2010. *Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR)*. 2011 Jul; 18(7): 19-21.

<sup>2</sup> Gladman AC. *Toxicodendron* dermatitis: poison ivy, oak, and sumac. *Wilderness and Environ Med*. 2006; 17:120-128.



---

**Codes**


---

The following ICD9 and ICD10 codes are included in the case definition:

<b>Condition</b>	<b>ICD-10-CM Codes</b>	<b>ICD-9-CM Codes</b>
Plant dermatitis	L23.7 (allergic contact dermatitis due to plants, except food)	692.6 (contact dermatitis and other eczema due to plants; except food)
	L24.7 (irritant contact dermatitis due to plants, except food)	
	L25.5 (unspecified contact dermatitis due to plants, except food)	

---

**Development and Revisions**


---

- In April of 2014 the case definition was updated to include ICD10 codes.
- This case definition was developed in July of 2011 by the Medical Surveillance Monthly Report (MSMR) staff for use in a MSMR article on plant dermatitis.<sup>1</sup> The definition was developed based on reviews of the ICD9 codes, the scientific literature, and previous AFHSC analyses.

---

**Reports**


---

None

---

**Review**


---

Apr 2014	Case definition reviewed and updated by the AFHSC Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) working group
Apr 2012	Case definition reviewed and adopted by the AFHSC Surveillance Methods and Standards (SMS) working group.
July 2011	Case definition reviewed and adopted by the AFHSC MSMR staff.

---

**Comments**


---

None

