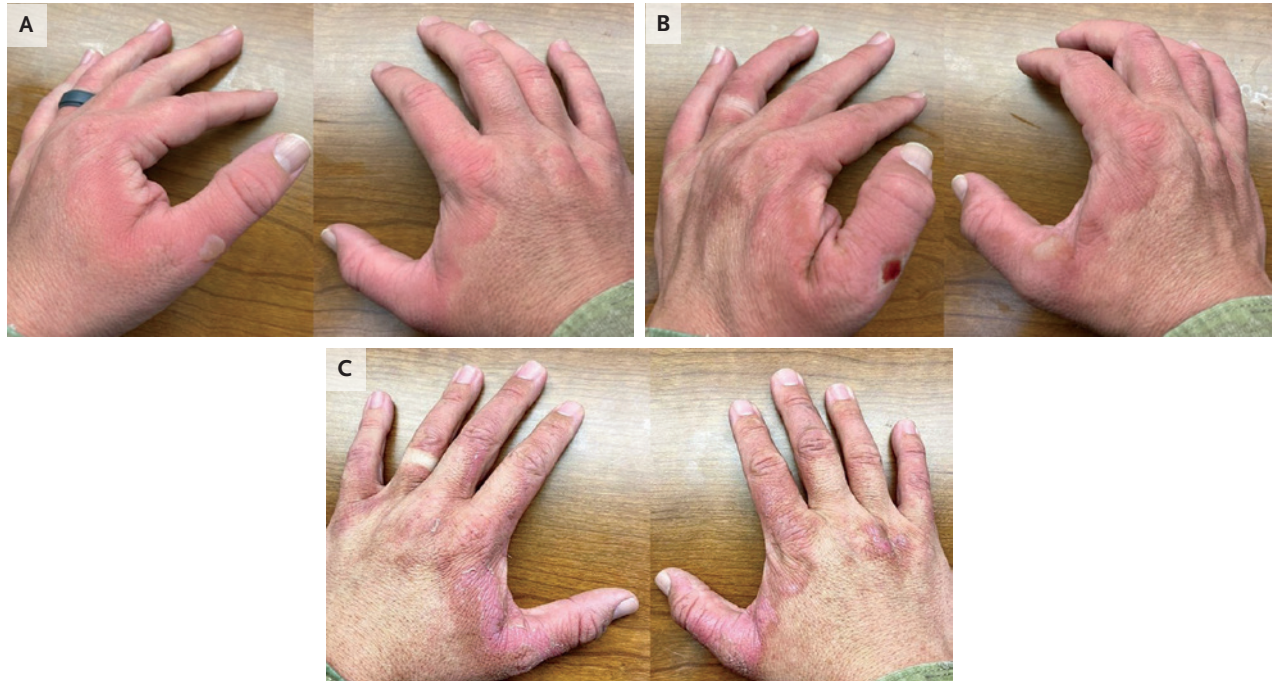


IMAGES IN CLINICAL MEDICINE

Stephanie V. Sherman, M.D., *Editor*

Phytophotodermatitis



A 40-YEAR-OLD MAN PRESENTED TO THE ALLERGY CLINIC WITH A 2-DAY HISTORY of a burning rash on both hands. One day before the development of the rash, the patient had manually juiced 12 limes and then attended an outdoor soccer game without applying sunscreen to his hands. Physical examination was notable for a confluent region of erythema extending from the dorsal aspect of the thumbs to the medial aspect of the second finger. Scattered patches of erythema were observed on the knuckles and other fingers, with sparing of the skin covered by a ring; a small blister was noted on the base of the left thumb (Panel A). A diagnosis of phytophotodermatitis was made. Phytophotodermatitis is a phototoxic, non-immunologic skin reaction that results from exposure to furocoumarins — a plant substance found in limes, lemons, celery, and parsley — and ultraviolet light. Treatment with triamcinolone cream and an emollient were prescribed. Four days after the exposure to lime juice and sun, a new blister formed on the dorsum of the right thumb (Panel B). Two weeks after the exposures, hyperpigmentation and scaling developed (Panel C). After several months, the skin returned to normal.

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