

Finn Chambers® AQUA

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FINNCHAMBER.COM

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English

Finn Chambers® AQUA is a patch test delivery system and holding device to place allergens and allergen mixes in contact with the surface of the skin during allergen patch tests. Finn Chambers AQUA patch test chambers are intended for use by, or under the supervision of, a physician for use as a patch test diagnostic device used in the testing of individuals suspected of having allergic or irritant contact dermatitis, photo contact dermatitis and experimental skin testing and allergy protocols.

Finn Chambers AQUA Patch Test Chambers optimally balance patient comfort and testing reliability:

- Both panels and chambers are designed to provide excellent occlusion and with increased patient comfort.
- The small chamber area, depth, enhanced spacing between chambers and raised chamber edges optimizes allergen contact with skin. This allows consistent allergen exposure and reduces the potential for adverse reactions due to excessive or overlapping skin reactions.
- The open-panel design allows for easy allergen loading and protects adhesive backing until application to the skin.
- The filter paper-coated chamber eliminates the need to manually add a filter paper disc to the chamber when using liquid allergens.
- The transparent polyurethane panel tape allows for clear view to the skin during testing, excellent skin adhesion and moisture resistance for enhanced patient compliance and comfort.

Table 1

Extreme positive (+++)	Strong positive (++)	Weak positive (+)	Irritant (IR)	Doubtful (?)
Coalescing vesicles, bullous reaction	Erythema, papules, infiltration, discrete vesicles	Erythema, infiltration, discrete papules	Discrete, patchy, follicular, or homogenous erythema with no infiltration	Faint macular or homogenous erythema with no infiltration

From: Wilkinson DS, Fregert S, Magnusson B, Bandmann HJ, Calnan CD, Cronin E, Hjorth N, Maibach HI, Malten KE, Meneghini CL, Pirila V (1970) Terminology of contact dermatitis. Acta Dermato – Venerologica 50:287

Storage: Room temperature.

Ancillary Finn Chambers AQUA Products:

- **Finn Chambers Chamber Covers** make it possible to prepare complete test sessions in advance & store them in the refrigerator. Chamber covers are uniquely designed to match openings in the protective paper liner and adhere around each chamber, limiting contamination, spills and potential oxidation.
- **Finn Chambers Reading Plates** are designed to help identify allergens by aligning skin markings with registration holes. Skin reactions evaluate easily with the metric ruler and graded images.
- **Marking Pens** use indelible gentian violet ink to identify patch test sites and skin reactions. The ink is non-toxic, non-tattooing and resistant to surgical preparations.

Description

Each patch test panel consists of four layers:

The Panel is a thin flexible transparent polyurethane rectangular film (50mm x 120mm) coated on one side with a medical grade acrylic adhesive, consistent with adhesives used in state-of-the-art hypoallergenic surgical tapes. The unique panel design also allows easy filling through special cutouts in the protective paper liner. This eliminates exposing the adhesive surface prior to patient application.

The Chambers are round (8mm diameter) aluminum discs. Each chamber is coated with filter paper for use with either liquid or petrolatum-based allergens in addition to food preparations and patient-provided substances. Each chamber provides a 50mm² area and a 22µl volume. The chambers are mounted on the panels in two rows of 5 chambers. The edges of the chambers are raised for optimal occlusion against the skin during testing.

The Printed Protective Paper is a polyethylene protective paper, pre-cut with 10 round openings that allow easy access to each of the 10 chambers on the panel for allergen loading. The liner is pre-slit creating a narrow and wide strip, both of which are easily removed before panel placement on the back or upper arm of the patient. [See Instructions for Use].

The Panel Backing Liner is a white polyethylene protective paper backing, pre-cut with an s-slit allowing for easy removal from the thin polyurethane tape after panel placement on the back or upper arm of the patient.

Specifications

Rows/chambers: 2 x 5

Panel size: 50mm x 120mm

Chamber size: 8mm round (50mm²)

Chamber volume: 33µl (maximum)

Chamber volume: 22µl (target)

Between chamber spacing: 9mm

Between row spacing: 9mm

Finn Chambers AQUA may be used with both liquid and semisolids including petrolatum-based allergens as well as food allergens and patient-supplied products. Liquid allergens should be placed into the chambers immediately before use to minimize evaporation.

(Note: aqueous mercuric solutions and some acrylate monomers may be incompatible with aluminum. Polypropylene-coated Finn Chambers may be used alternatively when testing these compounds).

Instructions For Use

Application of the test substances:

Selected allergens are dispensed directly into the paper-coated chamber through the cut-outs in the protective paper liner. Recommended allergen volumes depend on the desired dose and may be dispensed by micropipette (approximately 20µl for liquids or 20µg for semi-solids). Once filled, **Finn Chamber Covers** may be used to store and protect the loaded patch test panel until patient application. Individual allergen stability will dictate the allowable storage time of the pre-loaded chambers. Liquid allergens should be dispensed into the chamber within a few minutes of application to the skin to avoid evaporation. Do not let the filter paper disc dry before application to the skin as this may result in false negative reactions.

Placing the tests on the skin: The patient shall stand or sit in a relaxed normal position, the back slightly bent forwards. The tests are applied to healthy skin on the back or upper arm, which is clean, dry and free of ointments or lotions. If necessary, the skin may be cleaned with warm water and dried gently prior to panel placement. Excessive hair may hinder adequate adhesion and it may

be necessary to shave the area. If shaving is necessary, it should not be done immediately before patch test application as irritant reactions may confound patch test readings.

When ready to apply to the back or upper arm of the patient, remove the Printed Protective Paper Liner - wider strip first. To avoid touching the adhesive tape beneath the liner, the narrow strip may remain on the tape until the panel has been applied to the skin. Once attached to the skin, remove the narrow strip and smooth the panel in an upward motion.

Next, remove the Panel Backing Liner at the s-slit and smooth the clear polyurethane tape starting with the lower portion of the panel moving upward. Once both sides of the Panel Backing Liner have been removed, press the panel gently but firmly with the palm against the skin, especially on the corners, to ensure good adherence. After application, press each chamber containing the allergen gently to get an even distribution of the test substance. The outline of the panel may be marked with non-toxic ink or surgical marker at the 4 corners of the test panels after application and once again, prior to panel removal.

Removing the tests: At 48 hours after patch test application, prepare to remove the Finn Chamber AQUA panels by first remarking the skin. Be sure to note any apparent problems with adhesion or panel displacement. Remove panels from skin and verify occlusion as a circular depression around each test chamber site. Wait at least 20 minutes to allow skin to recover, if planning to do a 48-hour reading.

Additional readings are recommended at 72-96 hours after panel placement and again at 1 week. Interpret skin reactions based on standardized guidelines for patch testing (see Table 1), and record those reactions. **The Finn Chamber Reading Plate** is recommended to facilitate and verify each patch location.

(Note: the skin may react to the removal of the tests with a slight mechanical irritation, indicated by erythema on the area covered by the tape).