 nickel allergic contact dermatitis (Ni-ACD) appears as an itchy skin rash when an allergic reaction occurs in the skin. It is due to the reaction of a chemical substance (allergen) with the cells in the skin. There is a delay from the time of contact with the chemical to the reaction in the skin, within hours to 2 weeks, and calms over days, as long as there is no longer contact with the source of the chemical. At times, reactions can be generalized and severe. You may have Ni-ACD if you have a rash similar to the reactions shown in the gallery.