CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION EXAMINATION

Latex Allergy: Position Paper

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CME Items

1) Which of the following techniques is not valid for the diagnosis of immediate hypersensitivity to latex?
   a. Patch tests with rubber additives
   b. Skin prick tests with latex glove extract
   c. Specific inhalation challenge test by shaking powdered latex gloves
   d. Detection of allergens with immunoblotting
   e. Determination of circulating levels of specific IgE against latex

2) In respiratory allergy caused by latex, which of the following is not true?
   a. Environmental levels of latex correlate with the number of latex gloves used
   b. Respiratory allergy is often associated with allergy to certain fruits (avocado, banana, chestnuts)
   c. Asthma tends to persist in spite of adequate pharmacological treatment if the exposure to latex continues
   d. Health care workers are clearly at risk of having this allergy
   e. Atopy has not been related to the risk of occupational asthma due to latex

3) With regard to environmental levels of latex, which of the following statements is correct?
   a. High concentrations are associated with a greater risk of sensitization and the onset of asthmatic symptoms in sensitized patients
   b. They are not detectable in outpatient settings
   c. Concentrations in operating rooms are usually irrelevant
   d. The use of unpowdered gloves does not contribute to lowering levels
   e. The main source of allergen is from dry coagulated rubber

4) Which is the main latex allergen causing sensitization in health care staff?
   a. Hev b 1 (rubber elongation factor)
   b. Hev b 2
   c. Hev b 6 (hevein)
   d. Hev b 8 (profilin)
   e. Hevamine

5) Which allergen is considered to be the main cause of cross-reactivity in latex-fruit syndrome?
   a. Hevamine
   b. Patatin
   c. Kiwi acid protein
   d. Class I chitinases
   e. Profilin

6) Which of the following fruits/nuts is not characteristic of latex-fruit syndrome?
   a. Avocado
   b. Peach
   c. Kiwi
   d. Banana
   e. Chestnut

7) Which of the following clinical manifestations is not typical of IgE-mediated latex allergy?
   a. Blisters and pruritus in areas of contact with latex gloves
   b. Labial angioedema on inflation of a balloon
   c. Rhinoconjunctivitis on opening a packet of sterile latex gloves
   d. Intense bronchospasm after working in the blood bank
   e. Desquamation and skin cracking after repeated use of latex gloves

8) Which of the following groups has no greater risk of presenting immediate allergic reactions to latex?
   a. Patients undergoing multiple surgical operations
   b. Children with spina bifida
   c. Cleaning staff
   d. Neurosurgeons
   e. Administrative staff

9) What does a latex use test involve?
   a. Carrying out a prick test
   b. Placing a latex glove in direct contact with the skin
   c. Carrying out a match test with rubber allergens
   d. Shaking latex gloves to disperse the allergens
   e. Cutting pieces of glove and extracting them at 5% w/v

10) For a patient diagnosed with latex allergy, which of the following do therapeutic and preventive options not include?
    a. Allowing the sensitized patient to use hypoallergenic latex gloves
    b. Using neoprene or styrene-butadiene gloves
    c. Improving ventilation systems
    d. Using nitryl gloves as a substitute
    e. Immunotherapy with latex