
Spanish Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (SEAIC) Vision of Drug Provocation Tests: Reply

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To the Editor:

We thank Dr Vega for his expert comments on our paper [1]. Given the challenge of designing this study, one concern was that the most widely evaluated drugs in clinical practice were represented. In this sense, the adverse reactions induced by radiological contrast media cannot be compared with NSAIDs or β -lactams. On the other hand, a second concern was that the protocols were representative of practice in most allergy departments in Spain.

In imaging, a contrast agent is any agent that is administered to the patient to improve visualization of an organ, tissue, or pathologic condition. Iodinated contrast agents are therefore not considered pharmacologically active drugs; however, interactions between these agents and medications are possible [2,3].

Given the length of the document, we deliberately chose not to include radiological agents or general anesthetics in order to provide clear information and focus on results for the drugs considered most necessary because of their therapeutic effect. Drugs were proposed with the aim of reporting not all the pertinent ones, but the most protocol-based and necessary ones that are assessed in most allergy units. In any case, contrast media are not included among the absolute contraindications.

Protocols for the administration of iodinated contrast agents are both interesting and well documented and are currently applied in most allergy departments for a number of reasons. In fact, the same author proposes that "Perhaps the greatest difficulty in generalizing the use of DPTs with ICM is the lack of standardized protocols. Therefore, further studies are necessary to search for the most appropriate methodology". These decisions are probably affected by the lack of custom and problems associated with staffing and waiting lists.

In summary, our review focuses on controlled exposure tests with standard drugs. We believe that an effective approach to exposure to radiological contrast media requires further debate and consensus before it can be implemented in daily practice [4-6].

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

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