

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 inflating 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 nitril gloves as a substitute
  - e. Immunotherapy with latex