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

Audicana MT¹, Ortega NR²

¹Allergy and Immunology Department, Hospital Universitario Araba (HUA), BIOARABA, Vitoria, Basque Country, Spain

²Allergy Department, H.U. de Gran Canaria Dr Negrin, Gran Canaria, Spain

J Investig Allergol Clin Immunol 2022; Vol. 32(3): 242-243
doi: 10.18176/jiaci.0808

Key words: Adverse drug reaction. Drug allergy diagnosis. Drug-controlled exposure tests. Iodinated contrast media.

Palabras clave: Reacciones adversas a fármacos. Diagnóstico de alergia a fármacos. Pruebas de exposición a fármacos. Medios de contraste yodado.

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].

Funding

The authors declare that no funding was received for the present study.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare that they have no conflicts of interest.

References

1. Vega F, Blanco C. A reply to "Spanish Society of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (SEAIC) vision of drug provocation tests". *J Investig Allergol Clin Immunol*. 2022;32:241-2.
2. Morcos SK, Thomsen HS, Exley CM. Contrast media: interactions with other drugs and clinical tests. *Eur Radiol*. 2005;15:1463-8.
3. Currie GM. Pharmacology, Part 5: CT and MRI Contrast Media. *J Nucl Med Technol*. 2019;47:189-202. doi: 10.2967/jnmt.118.220012
4. Cha MJ, Kang DY, Lee W, Yoon SH, Choi YH, Byun JS, et al. Hypersensitivity Reactions to Iodinated Contrast Media: A Multicenter Study of 196 081 Patients. *Radiology*. 2019;293:117-24. <https://doi.org/10.1148/radiol.2019190485>
5. Rosado Ingelmo A, Doña Diaz I, Cabañas Moreno R, Moya Quesada MC, García-Avilés C, García Nuñez I, et al. Clinical practice guidelines for diagnosis and management of hypersensitivity reactions to contrast media. *J Investig Allergol Clin Immunol*. 2016;26:144-55.
6. Prieto-García A, Tomás M, Pineda R, Tornero P, Herrero T, Fuentes V, et al. 71 Skin test-positive immediate hypersensitivity reaction to iodinated contrast 72 media: the role of controlled challenge testing. *J Investig Allergol Clin Immunol*. 2013;23:183-9.

■ *Manuscript received March 16, 2022; accepted for publication March 23, 2022.*

■ **María Teresa Audicana**

Allergy and Immunology Department, HUACCEE
Leandro de Viana, s/n
01009 Vitoria, Spain
E-mail: maiteaudi@telefonica.net