

Respiratory Physiology Department

Skin Prick Testing

What is a skin prick test?

Your doctor has requested that you have a skin prick test performed to establish if you are allergic to any common allergens. This test is performed due to symptoms you have described to your doctor such as hay fever type symptoms, sneezing, red itchy eyes, itching or a wheeze. If the skin is exposed to an allergen, most patients who are sensitive to the particular allergen will usually produce a typical redness (erythema) and a raised weal (bump) within a few minutes of contact. When a reaction is produced it may help to assess the degree of sensitivity which is dependent of the size of the weal and the extent of the erythema.

Pre-test instructions

Before your appointment please stop taking the following medication for the stated time given prior to testing:

Antihistamines

Before your appointment stop for:

Dimetindene Maleato

3 Days

Fexofenadine

3 Days

Clemastine

4 Days

Cetirizine

3-10 Days

Loratadine

3-10 Days

Oxatomide

3-10 Days

Chlorfeniramine

2-6 Days



Patient Information

Hydroxizine	4-6 Days
Ketotifene	2 week
Astemizole	2-4 Weeks
Prednisolone >10mg	1 Week

If you have had an allergic reaction within the two weeks prior to your appointment please contact us as the test results may not be accurate. Also, if you have an infection at the time of the test your system may be more responsive than usual; therefore the results may not give an accurate result.

Performing the test

When performing the test we use the following listed allergens:

Allergens	Explanation
Negative Control	Solution which the allergens are diluted in
Positive Control	Histamine
Cat	
Dog	
Grass Mix	
Aspergillus Fumigatus	Fungus found in soil and compost heaps
Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus	European house dust mite
Tree Mix	Early and late blossom
Weeds Mix	
Alternaria tenuis	Fungus found on plants
Cladosporium herbarum	Fungus found in woody plants, textiles and rubber
Dermatophagoides farine	American house dust mite

Patient Information

To perform the test a small drop which is made up in a liquid form of one of the above is placed on the skin, preferably the forearm. Then a slight scratch will be made roughly the size of a pin prick onto the area where the allergen has been placed. The procedure is not painful, however some may find it a little uncomfortable if a reaction is produced. The area will then be left for 10 to 15 minutes to observe a possible reaction. If a reaction occurs a red weal (bump) will appear, the size will be dependent upon how sensitive you are to the allergen. You may also experience some localised itching which will be reduced by anti-histamine cream rubbed in at the end of the test. Most reactions will disappear within 30 minutes.

Expected complications or side effects

You should not expect to experience any severe complications during the test, however sometimes the test may cause redness or itching of that area. If these symptoms do not fade then consult your GP.

Further Information

If you have any further questions about this investigation, please telephone the Respiratory Physiology Department on 024 7696 6734.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 6861 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

Document History	
Department:	Respiratory Physiology
Contact:	26444
Updated:	December 2019
Review:	December 2021
Version:	5.1
Reference:	HIC/LFT/1234/11