

Children's Outpatients Department

Allergy - Drug Challenge (Antibiotics)

The challenge will take place in the Medical Day Unit on Ward 16 at University Hospital, Coventry.

The drug challenge involves testing whether a child is still sensitive to the particular drug they have been sensitive to. This will be done in a safe, controlled way or to prove that an alternative drug, that they have not had previously, is safe. This is carried out by exposing him or her to increased amounts of the particular drug, starting with a very small amount.

Observations

For the first 60 minutes of the challenge a staff nurse (with a paediatric life support certificate) will be present. The nurse will be looking for signs of an adverse reaction, which are:

- Rash around the mouth
- Urticarial rash (itchy rash)
- Swelling of typically eye or lip
- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Irritability
- Pallor (pale skin)
- Wheezing or coughing
- Loose stool
- Stridor (croup-like breathing)
- Collapse

After the first 60 minutes your child will be checked half hourly, providing a parent is present. Regular nursing observations of pulse, respiratory rate and oxygen saturations will be recorded half hourly as well as looking for all of the above reactions.



Patient Information

Stopping the challenge

If any of the above signs appear, the challenge will be stopped and in the event of a rash, wheeze, stridor or more severe reaction a doctor will be contacted and the appropriate medication will be given.

Challenge procedure

- A skin prick test will be carried out using the drug to be challenged. If this test is negative the drug will then be given via the mouth.
- The test involves giving the particular drug starting with a very small amount and gradually increasing the amount given until your child has had the correct dose for their age and weight.
- The challenge should take about two hours to complete.
- Your child will be then be observed for a period of time following completion of the challenge. The time will vary depending on whether your child has had a reaction. You will need to stay for at least one hours following completion.
- If the challenge is successful your child will be given a 5 day course of the antibiotic to finish at home.

On the day of the challenge please bring with you:

- A packed lunch for you and your child.
- A favourite book or toy

Medications to be stopped before the test

If your child is on certain medications, it may interfere with the challenge and therefore needs to be stopped for a few days. Please see below:

- Short acting antihistamines such as: Piriton, Phenergan and Vallergran **should be stopped two days before the test.**
- Long acting antihistamines such as Cetirizine and Loratidine **should be stopped five days before the test.**
- Your child can continue on all asthma inhalers.

Patient Information

Please speak to the **Louise Bashford, Kate Weller** or **Sarah Pitts** (the Allergy Nurses) if your child is on **any other medication**, if you have any concerns or need clarification about the test and stopping the medication. Obviously if the medication cannot be stopped or must be given (as in the case of an allergic reaction) please speak to the allergy nurse to rearrange the challenge.

If your child has a cough, cold or high temperature then please let us know before you arrive as we may have to cancel the challenge.

Further Information

If you require further information, you can contact the Secretary for Dr Costa and Dr Macdougall on telephone: 01788 663189. Alternatively you can contact the Allergy Nurses, via email: childrensallergy@uhcw.nhs.uk.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 7216 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy

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