

Children's Outpatients Department

Allergy - Egg challenge

Food challenges involve testing if your child is still sensitive to a food in a safe, controlled way. We do this by giving your child increasing amounts of the food, starting with very small amounts.

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

Observations

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

- Rash around the mouth
- Urticarial rash (itchy rash)
- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Irritability
- Pallor (paleskin)
- Wheezing or coughing
- Loose stool
- Stridor (croup-like breathing)
- Collapse



Patient Information

After the first 60 minutes, your child will be checked every 30 minutes. We will check for signs of an adverse reaction and check your child's:

- pulse
- respiratory rate
- oxygen saturation

Stopping the challenge

If any of the signs of an adverse reaction appear, no more egg will be given. In the event of a rash, wheeze, stridor or more severe reaction, we will contact a doctor and the appropriate medicine will be given.

Egg administration

- We will give your child $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp of hard-boiled egg yolk. Your child is then observed for 15 minutes.
- If no reaction is observed, 1tsp of hard-boiled of egg yolk will be given, and your child will be observed for 15 minutes.
- If no reaction is observed, $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp hard-boiled of egg white will be given, and your child will be observed for 15 minutes.
- If no reaction is observed, 1tsp hard-boiled of egg white will be given, and your child will be observed for 15 minutes.
- If no reaction is observed, egg will then be given freely. Your child will need to have at least $\frac{1}{2}$ a boiled egg in total.

If a boiled egg is disliked, we could challenge with scrambled egg. Starting with a $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon, we gradually increase the amount given until the whole egg has been eaten.

Your child will be observed for some time after completing the challenge. This time will vary depending on if your child had a reaction or not. You will need to stay for at least 2 hours following completion.

We aim to give you a convenient date for your child's egg challenge at this outpatient appointment.

On the day of the challenge, please bring:

- Any well-loved food, which your child does not react to, that we could use to disguise the egg with if needed. For example, tomato ketchup, egg free salad cream, pickle, or flavoured yogurt.
- A packed lunch
- A favourite book or toy
- An egg (that we could use for scrambling)

Please note that we do ask a parent (with parental responsibility) to accompany their child to this appointment.

Medicines to stop before the test

Some medicines may interfere with the challenge. So, these need to be stopped for a few days before the test. **Please stop:**

- **Short-acting antihistamines** such as Piriton, Phenergan and Vallergan, **2 days before the test.**
- **Long-acting antihistamines** such as Cetirizine and Loratidine, **5 days before the test**

Your child can continue using all their asthma inhalers. However, if you are needing to use your blue inhaler more often, please email the allergy nurses for advice before attending your appointment.

Please speak to the allergy nurses if:

- your child is taking any other medicines
- you have any concerns
- you need clarification about the test and stopping the medicine

If the medicine cannot be stopped or you must give the medicine (like in the case of an allergic reaction), please speak to the allergy nurse. They can rearrange the challenge.

Patient Information

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

More information

For more information, contact 01788 663 189. Or 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 childrensallergy@uhcw.nhs.uk and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke-free policy.

Did we get it right?

We would like you to tell us what you think about our services. This helps us make further improvements and recognise members of staff who provide a good service.

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Document History

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