

Children's Outpatients Department

Allergy - Latex challenge

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

The latex challenge involves testing whether a child is still sensitive to latex in a safe, controlled way. This is done by exposing him or her to increased amounts of latex, 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 adverse reaction, which are:

- Local skin reaction characterised by itch, redness and rash.
- 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.



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.

Latex exposure

- A skin prick test will be carried out using a latex glove and a non latex glove for comparison. If this test is negative a glove challenge will be performed.
- The test involves ten minutes of skin contact with either the cut off finger of a glove or the entire glove.
- In detail, a dry latex finger cut from a glove will be placed on your child's hand for 10 minutes. On the other hand a dry finger cut from a non latex glove will be used.
- If no reaction is observed the above is repeated using a wet finger.
- Again, if no reaction is observed, an entire latex glove will be placed on one hand and on the other hand a non latex glove.
- Finally a wet glove will be used.
- The challenge will take approximately one hour and 20 minutes to complete.
- Your child will be then be observed for a period of time following the 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 hour following completion.

On the day of the challenge please bring with you:

- 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 Vallergan **should be stopped two days before the test.**
- Long acting antihistamines such as Cetirizine and Loratidine **should be stopped five days before the test.**

Patient Information

- Your child can continue on all asthma inhalers

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 or Dr Macdougall on 01788 663189. Alternatively, you can contact the Allergy Nurses, via email on 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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