

Children's Outpatients Department

Allergy - Latex challenge

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.

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
- Itchy rash
- Sneezing
- Vomiting
- Irritability
- 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 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 challenge

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 finger of a glove or the entire glove.

- 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 challenge is repeated using a wet finger.
- Again, if no reaction is observed, an entire latex glove will be placed on one hand and a non-latex glove on the other hand.
- If no reaction is observed, finally a wet glove will be used.

The challenge will take approximately 1 hour and 20 minutes to complete.

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 1 hour after the challenge is completed.

Patient Information

On the day of the challenge please bring with you:

- A favourite book or toy

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.

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.

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