

# Managing food allergies in the real world



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# Is there a Food Allergy epidemic?



The screenshot shows a BBC News article from Thursday, 31 January 2008, at 08:07 GMT. The article is titled "Baby allergy fears 'over the top'" and features a photograph of a baby. The text states: "Mothers who fear their babies suffer from food allergies are largely wrong, research has found." The article also includes navigation links for "Home", "News", "Sport", "Radio", "TV", "Weather", and "Languages", as well as options to "Watch One-Minute World News", "E-mail this to a friend", and "Printable version". A sidebar on the left lists regional news sections: "Africa", "Americas", "Asia-Pacific", and "Europe".



The newspaper clipping is dated November 20, 2007. The headline reads "Baby milk allergies baffle GPs". The article text states: "DOCTORS are misdiagnosing the symptoms of babies with a cow's milk allergy and recommending inappropriate substitutes, a report says. They are confusing the symptoms of the allergy – which affects 10,000 babies a year – with conditions such as gastroenteritis and colic, causing babies unnecessary suffering, the Act Against Allergy survey found. Some doctors are recommending soya-based infant milk despite [redacted] that could pose a risk to".

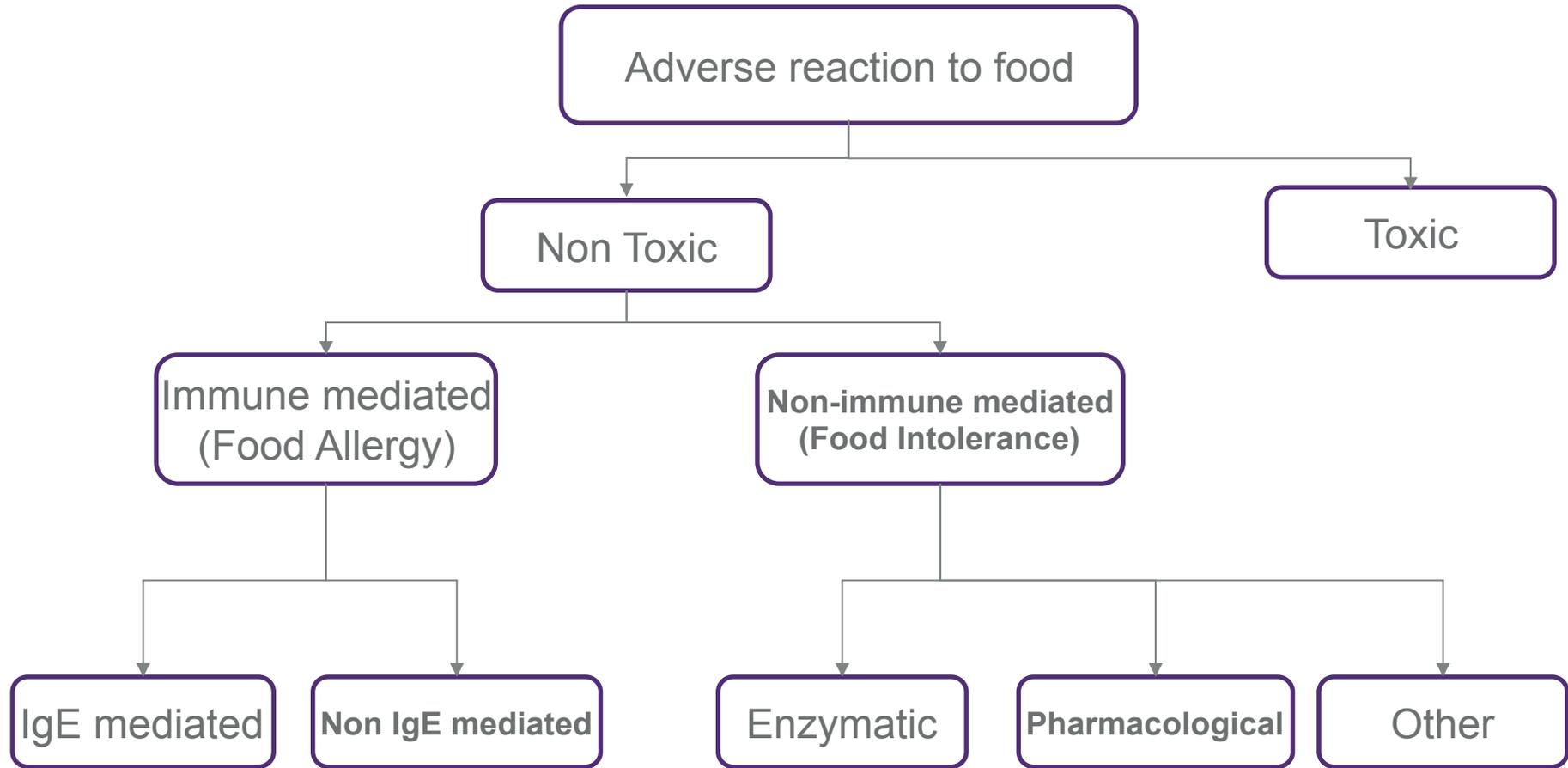
Little robust evidence

Best evidence for peanut

Sicherer S et al. JACI 2003

Grundy J et al. JACI 2002

# Classification of Reactions



**Immediate food allergy**

**Oral Allergy Syndrome**

**Coeliac Disease**

**Food Protein Enteropathies**

**Eosinophilic Gastroenteropathies**

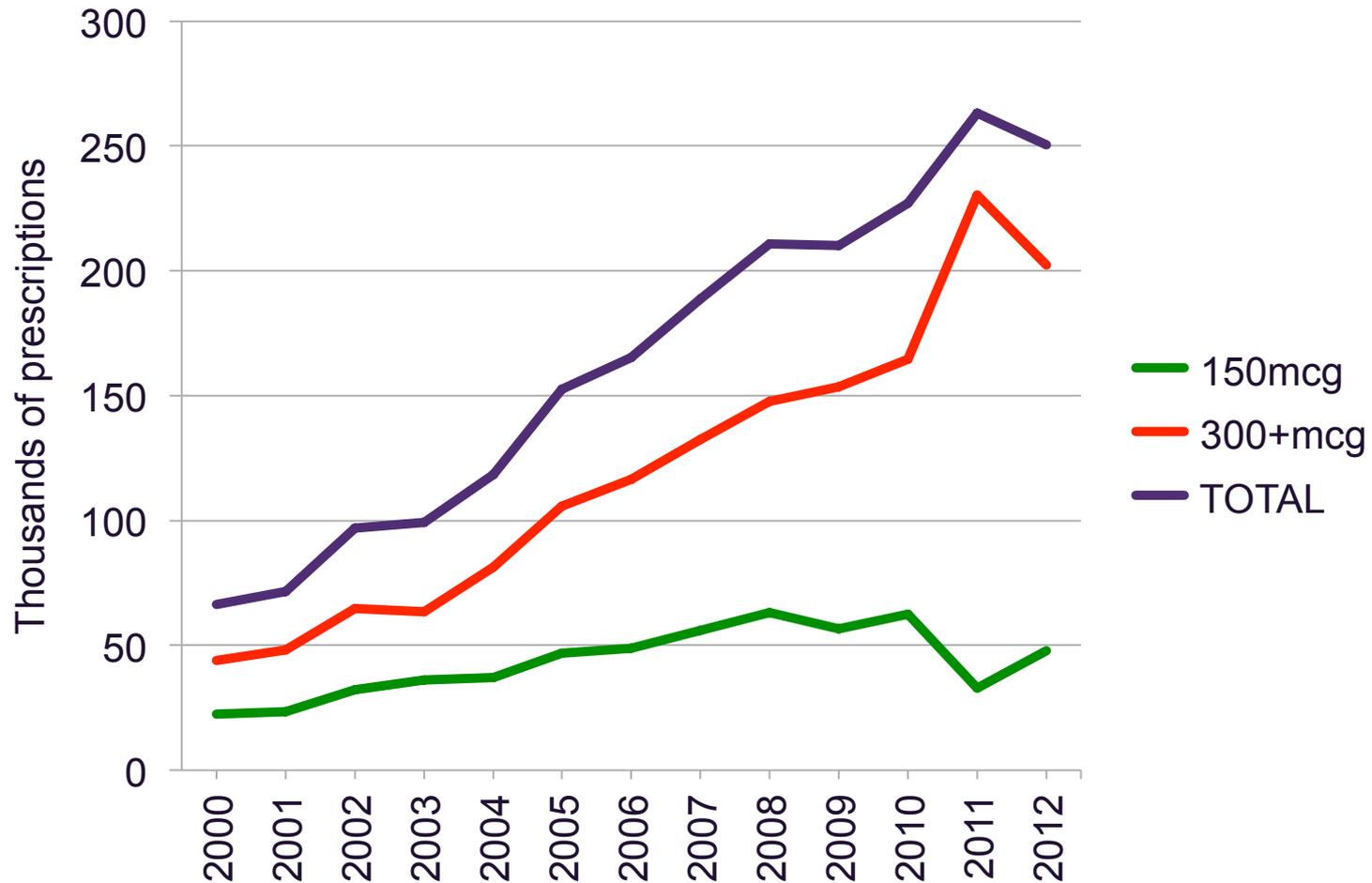
## Prevalence of Food Allergy

Food	Young Children						Adults
	USA	AUS	FRA	NOR	CH	UK	USA
Milk	2.5%	2.7%	1.1%	3.2%	1.7%	2.3%	0.3%
Egg	1.3%	8.9%	0.8%	2.6%	3.0%	1.3%	0.2%
Peanut	0.8%	3.0%	0.7%	-	0.3%	1.8%	0.6%
TreeNuts	0.2%	-	0.7%	-	-	-	0.5%
Fish	0.1%	-	-	-	0.3%	-	0.4%
Shellfish	0.1%	-	1.4%	-	-	-	2.0%
Sesame	-	0.8%	-	-	-	-	-
Overall	6.0%	10%	6.0%	-	5.2%	5.5%	3.7%

Hu Y, Li H Chin. *J. Pediatr* 2000;38:431 (CHINA)  
 Osbourne N et al. *JACI* 2011; 127:668-76 (AUS)  
 Eggesbo M et al *J.Paed* 2001, 139:583 (NOR)

Venter C , et al *JACI* 2006; 117:1118 (UK)  
 Sampson H.A. *JACI* 2004;13:806. (USA)  
 Rance F et al *CEA* 2005;35:167.(FRA)  
 Hourihane J et al *JACI* 2006;119:1197 (UK)

# Adrenaline auto-injector devices



Data: NHS Prescription Cost Analysis for England, 2000-2012

## Time trends in the prevalence of peanut allergy: three cohorts of children from the same geographical location in the UK

C. Venter<sup>1,2</sup>, S. Hasan Arshad<sup>1</sup>, J. Grundy<sup>1</sup>, B. Pereira<sup>1</sup>, C. Bernie Clayton<sup>1</sup>, K. Voigt<sup>1</sup>, B. Higgins<sup>2</sup> & T. Dean<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>The David Hide Asthma and Allergy Research Centre, St. Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight, UK; <sup>2</sup>School of Health Sciences and Social Work, University of Portsmouth, Portsmouth, UK

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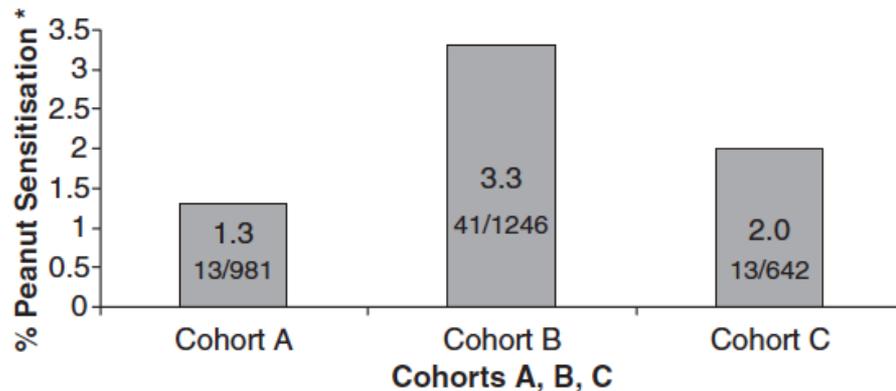
**To cite this article:** Venter C, Hasan Arshad S, Grundy J, Pereira B, Bernie Clayton C, Voigt K, Higgins B, Dean T. Time trends in the prevalence of peanut allergy: three cohorts of children from the same geographical location in the UK. *Allergy* 2010; **65**: 103–108

- Community cohort of children born 1989 vs 1994-96 vs 2001-2 on IoW
- Questionnaire/examination/SPT at 1,2,3 yrs of age
- OFC for any +ve SPT if no Hx of tolerance OR any suspicion of reaction, regardless of SPT

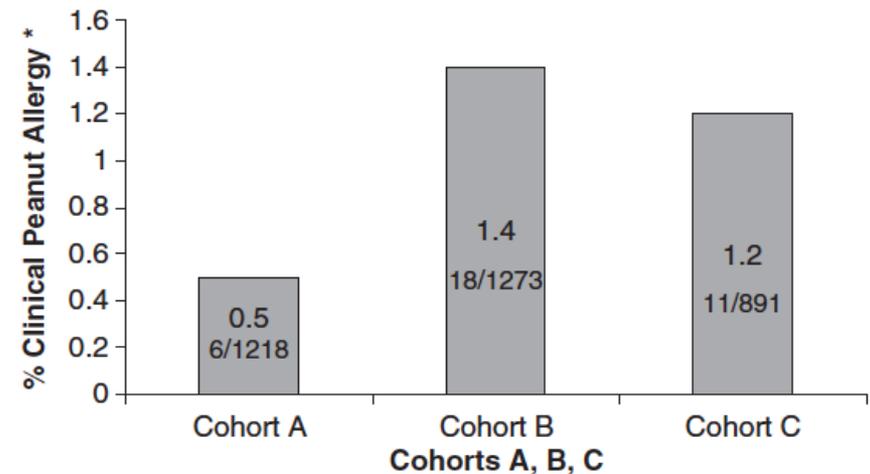
## Results

In 2001/2 cohort of 969 children:

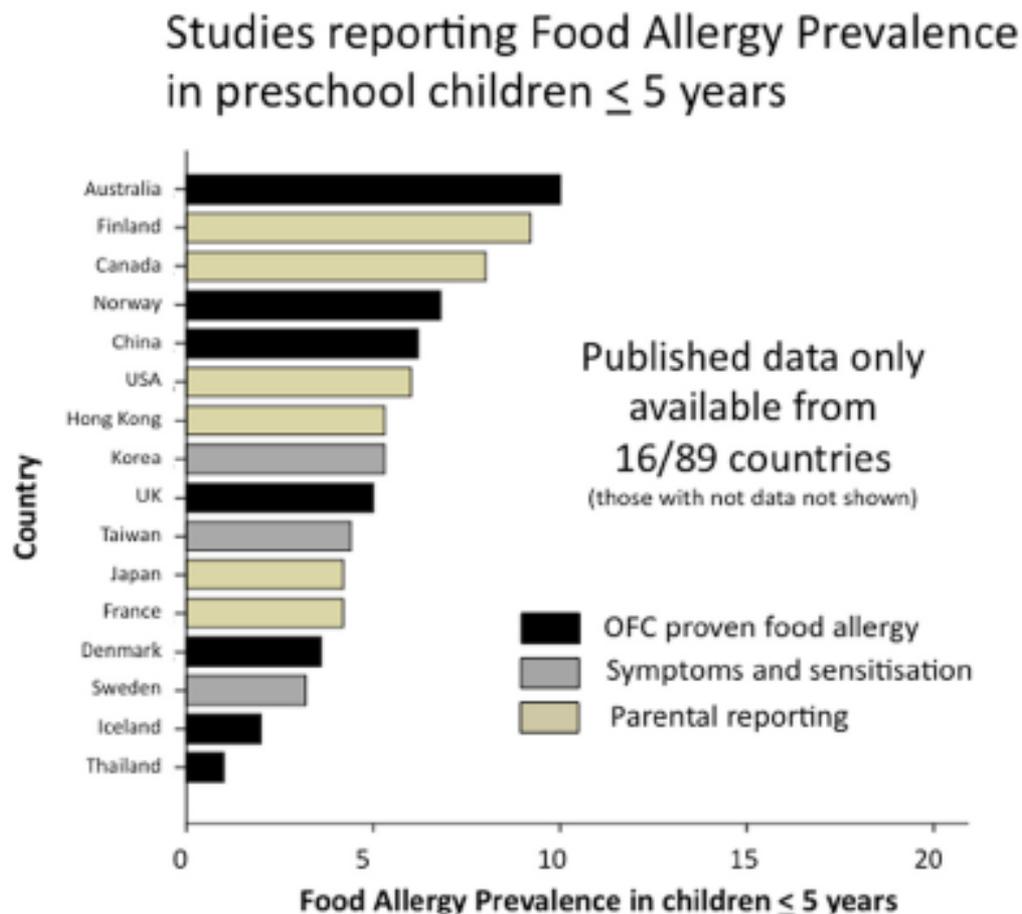
- 33.7% of parents reported a food related problem
- 5.3% sensitised to food
- 6% had FA at open OFC
- 5% had FA by DBPCFC



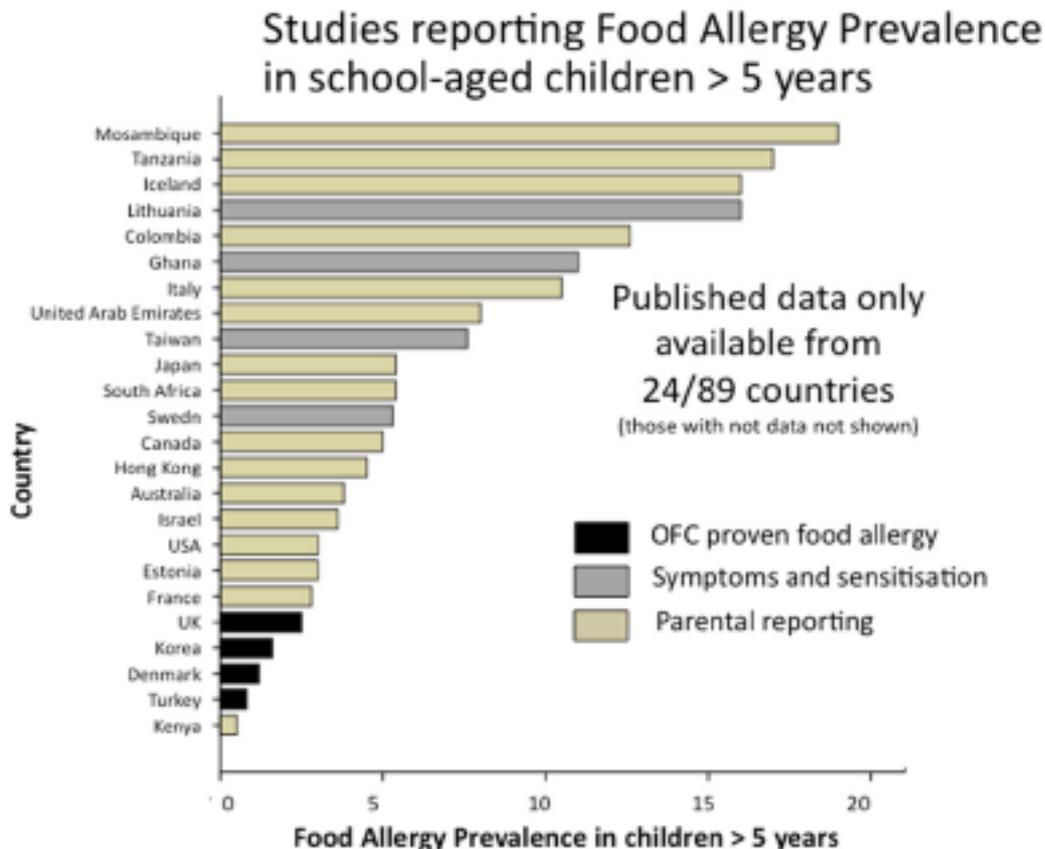
**Figure 1** Comparison of sensitization to peanuts in three cohorts of children aged 3–4 years. \*Test for trend: Chi-square (quadratic component)  $P = 0.005$ .



**Figure 2** Comparison of peanut allergy in three cohorts of children aged 3–4 years. \*Test for trend: Chi-square (quadratic component)  $P = 0.127$ .



**Figure 2 Summary of food allergy prevalence from studies that provided data for children aged 5 years or less.** Studies are categorised according to level of evidence; OFC proven food allergy (black bars); food allergy based on symptoms and sensitisation (grey bars) or questionnaires/parental reporting (yellow bars).



**Figure 3 Summary of food allergy prevalence from studies that provided data for children older than 5 years.** Studies are categorised according to level of evidence; OFC proven food allergy (black bars); food allergy based on symptoms and sensitisation (grey bars) or questionnaires/parental reporting (yellow bars).

## Foods implicated:

Allspice	Chamomile	Fennel	Mango	Raspberry
Almond	Chestnut	Fig	Millet	Royal jelly
Anise seed	Chicken	Flaxseed	Mushrooms	Sage
Apple	Chicory	Food additives	Mustard	Salmon
Artichoke	Chilli	French beans	Nutmeg	Sesame
Avocado	Chocolate	Garlic	Oat	Shellfish
Baker's yeast	Cinnamon	Ginger	Orange	Shrimp
Banana	Clam	Goat's milk	Oyster	Soy
Barley	Clove	Halibut	Parsley	Squash
Bay leaf	Coconut	Hazelnut	Pea	Squid
Beet	Cod	Honey	Peach	Sunflower seed
Black Pepper	Coriander	Hops	Peanut	Sweet Potato
Brazil nut	Corn	Horseradish	Pecan nut	Tangerine
Brewer's yeast	Cow's Milk	Juniper Berry	Pine nut	Tapioca
Buckwheat	Crab	Kiwi	Pineapple	Thyme
Cantaloupe	Crustaceans	Lentil	Pistachio	Turmeric
Carrot	Cumin Seed	Lima Bean	Pomegranate	Vanilla
Cashew nut	Cuttlefish	Limpet	Poppy seed	Walnut
Castor bean	Dates	Lobster	Potato	Watermelon
Celery	Egg	Lupine	Psyllium seed	Wheat

# Foods that cause more than 90% of IgE-mediated FA in children

Milk

Eggs

Peanuts

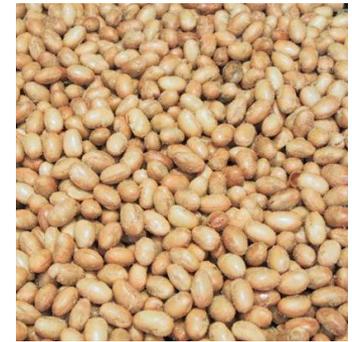
Tree nuts and seeds

Fish

Shellfish

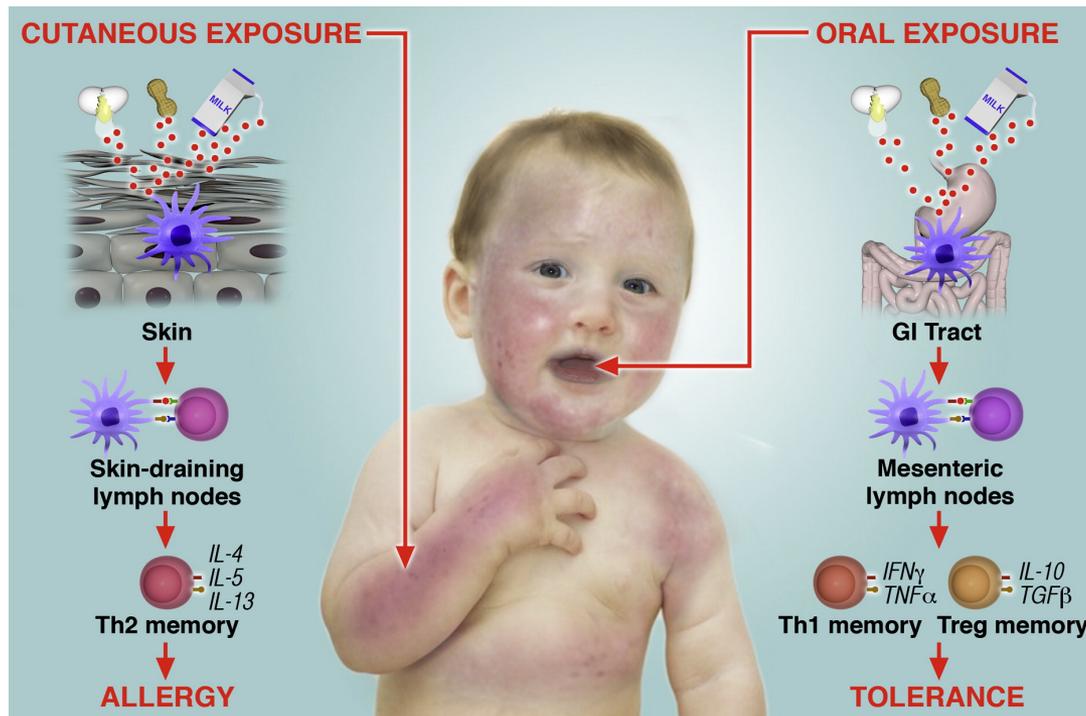
Soy

Wheat



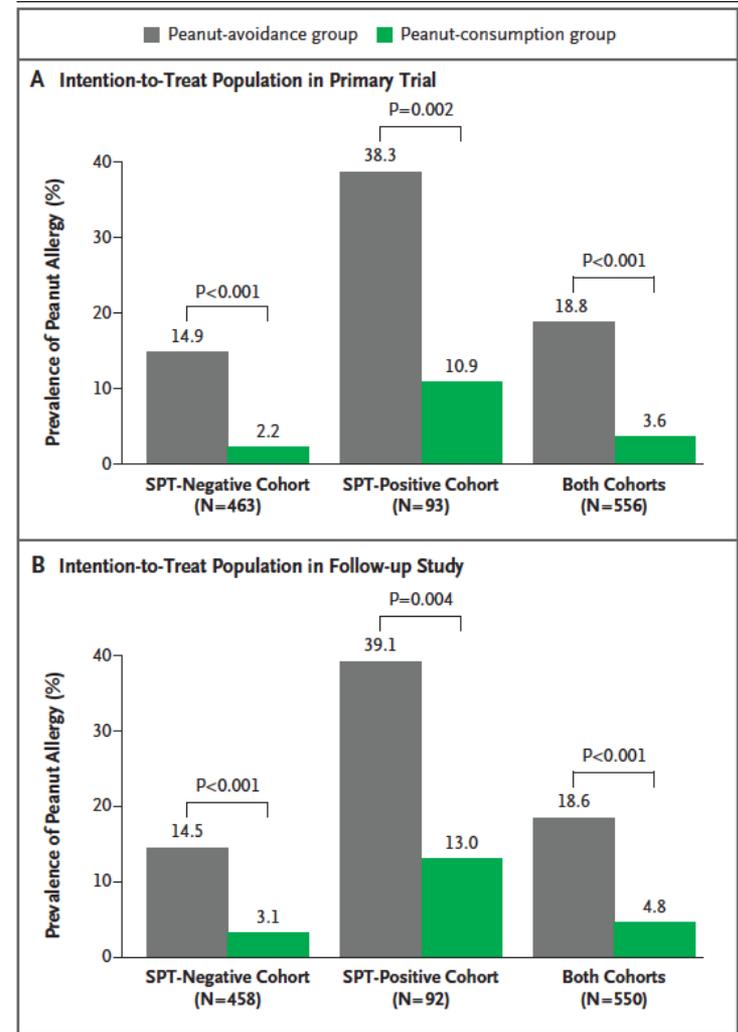
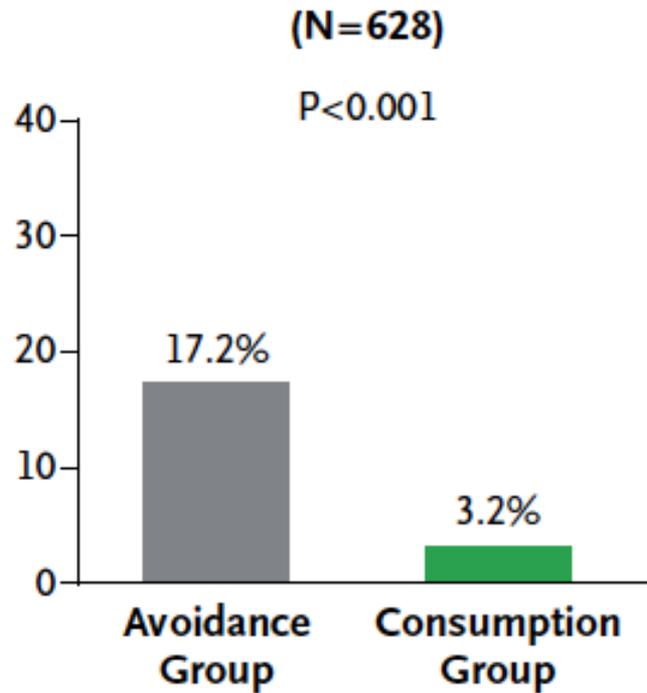
## Explanations for the increase in PN allergy

- Change in peanut formulation/dietary consumption
- Changes in exposure / skin barrier function
- Impact from other atopic conditions?



# Can early exposure alter the risk of food allergy?

- LEAP Study

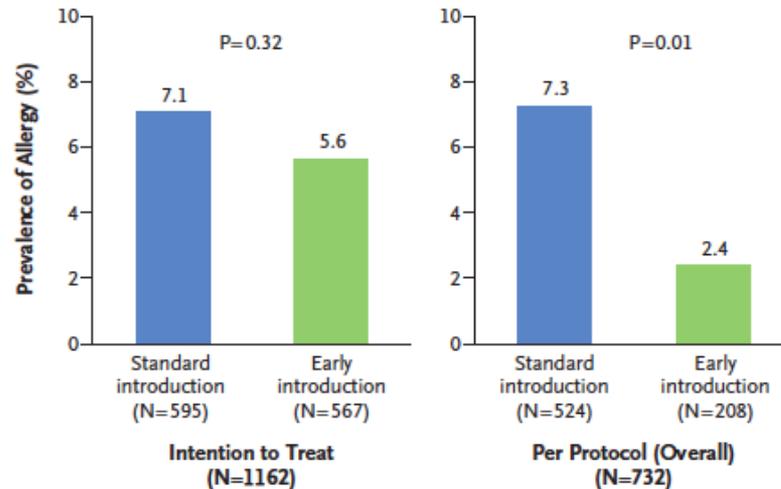


# Can early exposure alter the risk of food allergy?

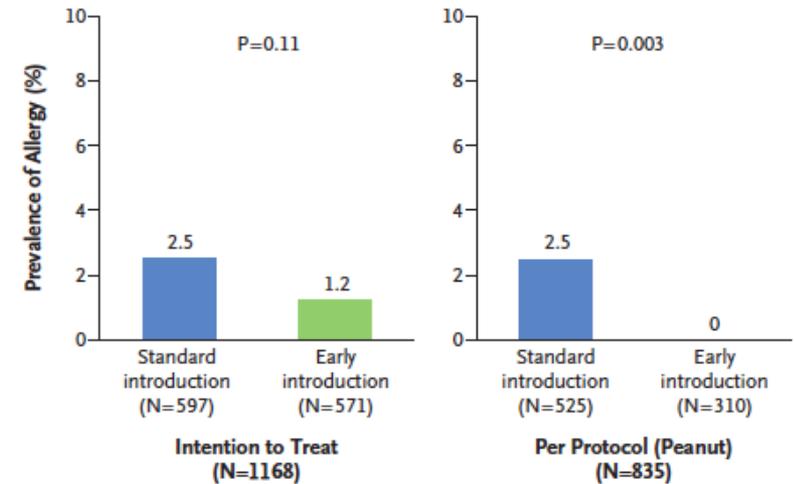
Other studies:

- Egg
- Multiple foods: EAT Study

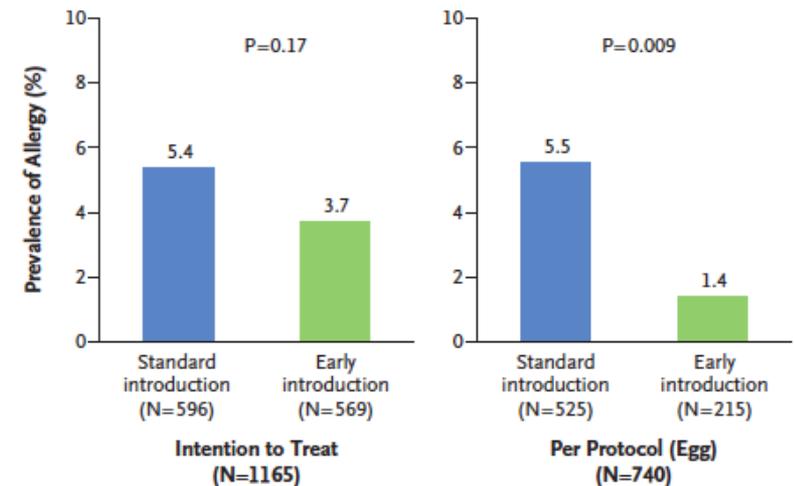
**A One or More Foods**



**B Peanut**



**C Egg**



## A (na) phylaxis

Originates from Greek, meaning against or without protection.

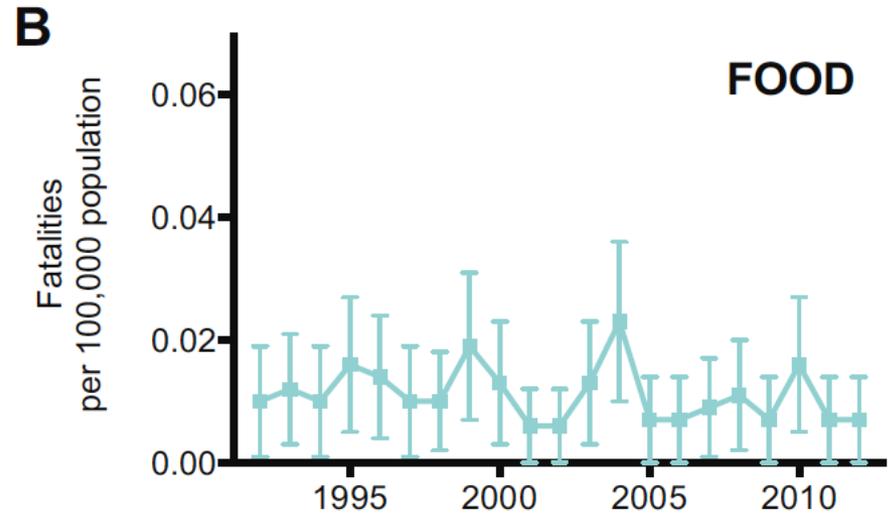
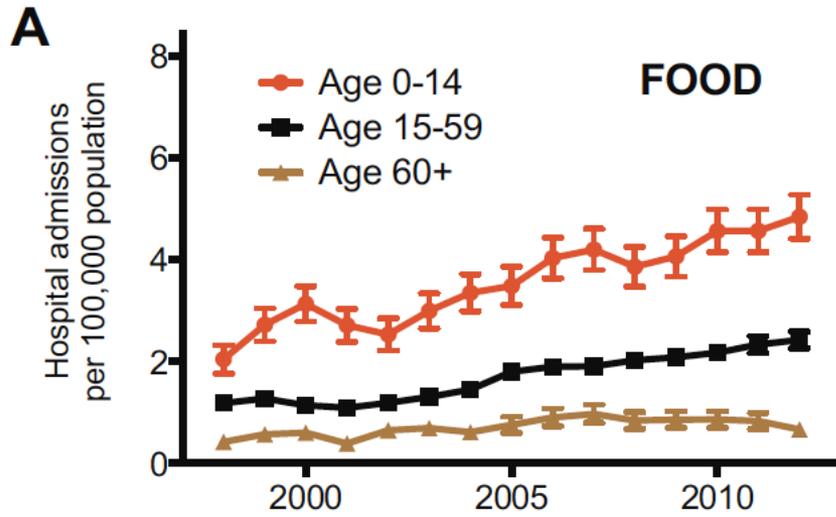
*vs. prophylaxis, for protection*

*“A rapidly evolving, generalised multi-system reaction characterized by one or more symptoms or signs of **respiratory**, **cardiovascular** and other systems such as the skin and/or GI tract.”*

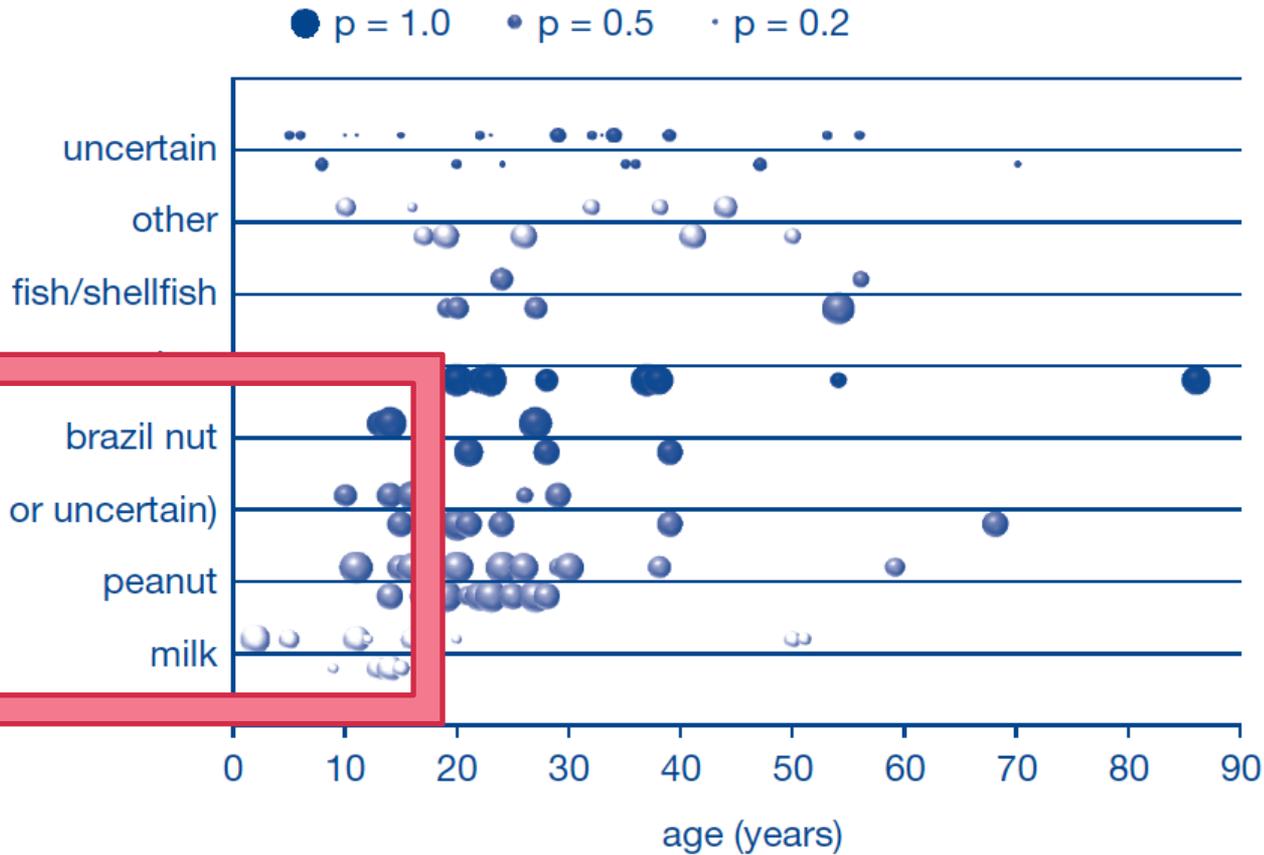
## **Food allergy is increasing...**

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1. Has the incidence of anaphylaxis increased?
2. Has mortality due to anaphylaxis increased?

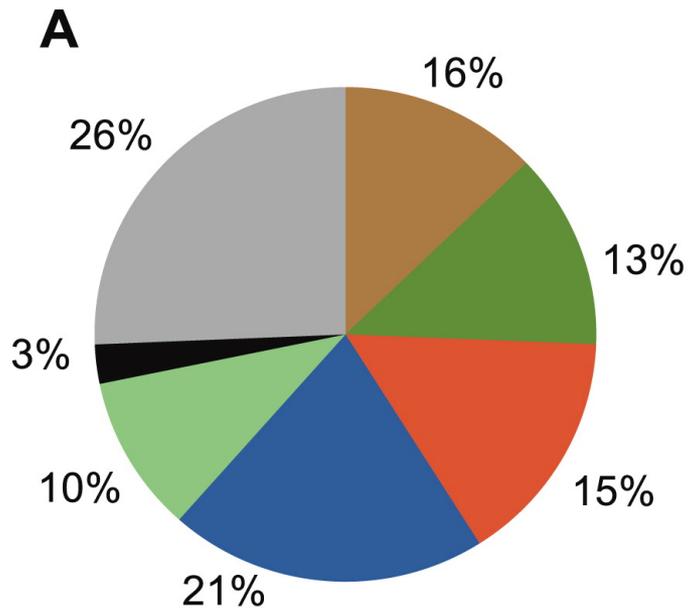


# Fatal food anaphylaxis, UK 1992-2007

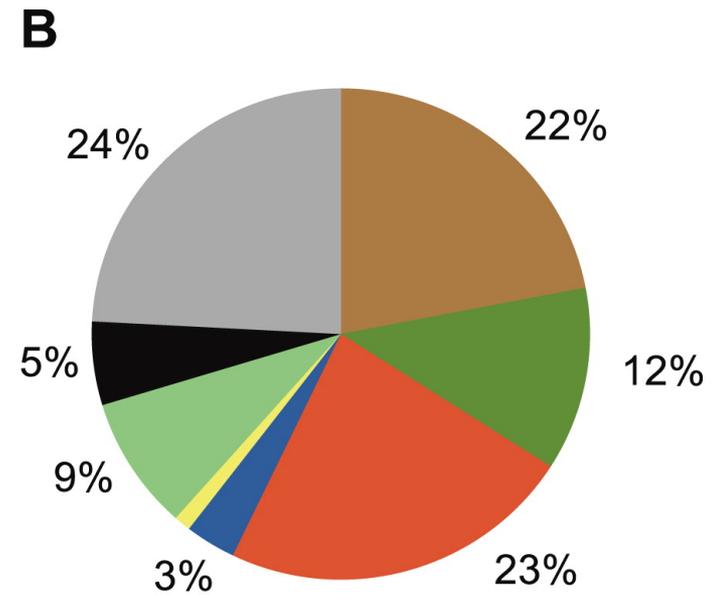


points 1992–1999 are plotted below the line  
points 2000–2007 are plotted above the line

# Fatal food anaphylaxis



Children (under 16 years)



Adults (over 16 years of age)

## Where is the clinical need?

**'Perceived' RISK**



Peanut

**\*\* DANGER \*\***



Cow's Milk

## Where is the clinical need?

Pre-packed foods

27%

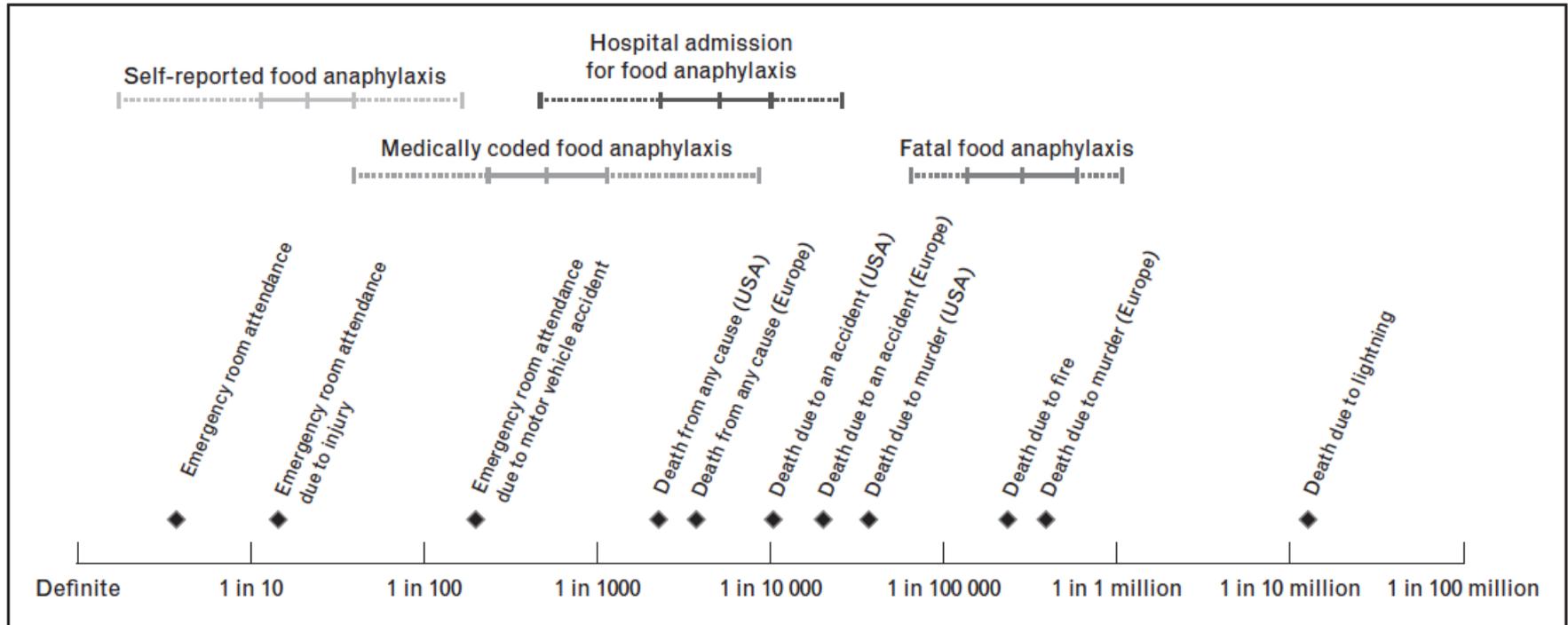
(? none to “traces”)

Catering outlets

59%



# Risk of food-induced anaphylaxis



**FIGURE 1.** Annual incidence rate for different events in food-allergic people aged 0–19 years. Data are estimated risk of self-reported/medically coded/fatal food anaphylaxis and hospital admission for food anaphylaxis. Continuous bars represent means with 95% CI, dotted bars represent the range of point estimates from individual studies, in a systematic review undertaken by Umasunthar *et al.* [4<sup>■</sup>]. Wherein reference risks vary markedly between European and US populations, they are stated separately. Otherwise, reference risks are for the US population.

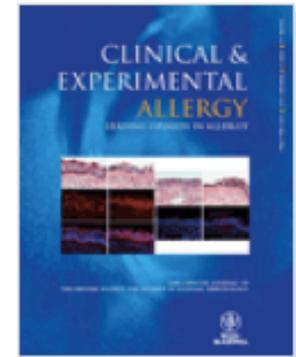
# OBSERVATION:

## Clinical & Experimental Allergy

Original Article

### The use of adrenaline autoinjectors by children and teenagers

L. Noimark , J. Wales, G. Du Toit, C. Pastacaldi, D. Haddad, J. Gardner, W. Hyer, G. Vance, C. Townshend, M. Alfaham, P. D. Arkwright, R. Rao, S. Kapoor, A. Summerfield, J. O. Warner, G. Roberts



Volume 42, Issue 2  
February 2012  
Pages 284–292

**83% of (245) teenagers with anaphylaxis don't use their AAI**

## **OBSERVATION:**

Anaphylaxis is not uncommon,  
but death from anaphylaxis is very rare.

# Management

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1. Dietary Avoidance
2. Treatment of accidental reactions
3. Desensitisation?

# Management

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1. Dietary Avoidance
2. Treatment of accidental reactions
3. Desensitisation?

# Allergen Labelling

**Table 1 Examples of countries with mandatory disclosure of allergens in pre-packed foods**

	Wheat	Other gluten-containing cereals	Egg	Milk	Peanut	Tree nuts	Soy	Fish	Crustacean	Mollusc	Celery	Mustard	Sesame	Lupin	Sulphur dioxide	Other
Argentina [11]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>
Australia/ New Zealand [12]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	2			✓		✓	
Brazil [13]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓ <sup>1</sup>
Canada [14]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	
China [15]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
European Union* [16]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Hong Kong [17]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	
Japan [18]	✓	3	✓	✓	✓	3	3	3	✓ <sup>4</sup>	3						✓ <sup>3</sup>
Kuwait/Gulf [19]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			
Malaysia [20]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Mexico [21]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	
Singapore [22]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	
South Africa [23]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						
South Korea [24]	✓	5	✓	✓	✓		✓	5	✓ <sup>4</sup>							✓ <sup>5</sup>
USA [25]	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓ <sup>6</sup>	✓	✓	✓						✓	
Codex [10]	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							

Table adapted from <http://farrp.unl.edu/IRChart> with reference to national legislation.

\*The 28 constituent member states of the European Union (EU) are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom.

<sup>1</sup> Local legislation also requires mandatory disclosure of tartrazine.

<sup>2</sup> It is unclear whether disclosure of mollusc is required by local legislation.

<sup>3</sup> Local legislation requires mandatory disclosure of eggs, milk, wheat, buckwheat, peanuts, shrimp and crab. In addition, disclosure is recommended (but not required) for the following 18 ingredients: abalone, squid, salmon roe, orange, kiwifruit, beef, walnut, salmon, mackerel, soybean, chicken, banana, pork, Matsutake mushroom, peach, yam, apple, and gelatin.

<sup>4</sup> Legislation specifies prawn/shrimp and crab rather than 'crustacea'.

<sup>5</sup> Local legislation requires mandatory disclosure of egg, milk, buckwheat, peanuts, soybeans, wheat, mackerel (but not other finned fish), prawn/shrimp, crab, pork, peaches and tomatoes. There are no allergens for which labelling is optional.

<sup>6</sup> Tree nuts in USA include a range of native nuts not included, for example, under EU legislation e.g. Beech, Butternut, Chestnut, Coconut, Ginko nut, Hickory nut, Lychee, Shea nut.



## Impact on the consumer

- 69% of cereals and 56% of confectionery labelled 'may contain' despite not listing nut as an ingredient<sup>1</sup>
- Shopping for a nut-allergic person took:
  - 40% longer
  - cost an average of 11% more
- Adversely impacts on quality of life

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<sup>1</sup>FSA report 2007, available at [www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/maycontaininguide.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/maycontaininguide.pdf)

## Product with PAL

## Product without PAL

*Helpful to  
allergic consumers*

- 1. Product with PAL with a real risk of inducing an allergic reaction  
i.e. unsafe to consume**
  - Proper risk assessment by the food manufacturer
  - Conclusion that the allergen may be present in the product (despite allergen management and Good Manufacturing Practice).

- 4. Product without PAL with low or no risk of inducing an allergic reaction  
i.e. safe to consume**
  - Proper risk assessment by the food manufacturer
  - Conclusion that the allergen is not present in the product at a level that is likely to cause an allergic reaction

*Not helpful to  
allergic consumers*

- 2. Product with PAL with unknown risk of inducing an allergic reaction  
i.e. may be safe or unsafe to eat**
  - No proper risk assessment
  - No conclusion about allergen presence can be drawn
- 3. Product with PAL with low or no risk of inducing an allergic reaction  
i.e. safe to consume**
  - Proper risk assessment undertaken
  - Manufacturer uses PAL nonetheless
  - No conclusion about allergen presence can be drawn

- 5. Product without PAL, with unknown risk of inducing an allergic reaction  
i.e. may be safe or unsafe to consume**
  - No proper risk assessment
  - No conclusion about allergen presence can be drawn

## Do PALs contribute to anxiety?

- Paediatric food allergy causes more anxiety than other chronic diseases such as DM <sup>1</sup>
- Labelling is a particular concern: <sup>2,3</sup>

*“...considerable confusion over the extent to which parents should exclude allergens... including whether foods labelled “may contain traces” should be avoided...”* <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Avery et al, PAI 2003;14:378-82

<sup>2</sup> Cummings et al. PAI 2010;21:586-94;

<sup>3</sup> Sheth et al, Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 2010;104:60-5

<sup>4</sup> Hu et al, Arch Dis Child 2007;92:771-5

## So why bother?

- PALs helpful if they provide reliable information, but use is widespread<sup>1</sup>
- Phrasing is confusing

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<sup>1</sup>FSA report 2007, available at [www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/maycontaininguide.pdf](http://www.food.gov.uk/multimedia/pdfs/maycontaininguide.pdf)

<sup>2</sup>Imamura et al. PAI 2008;19:270-4

## Do allergic individuals heed PAL?

	<b>UK</b> (n=184)	<b>Australia</b> (n=246)
“May contain nuts”	80% avoid	75% avoid
“May contain traces of nuts”	60% avoid	45% avoid
“Does not contain nuts but made in a factory that uses nuts”	40% avoid	35% avoid
	Noimark et al. PAI 2009	Zurzolo et al. MJA 2013

But wording used bears no relation to risk of contamination<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Pele et al. Food Add Contam 2007; 24:1334-44.

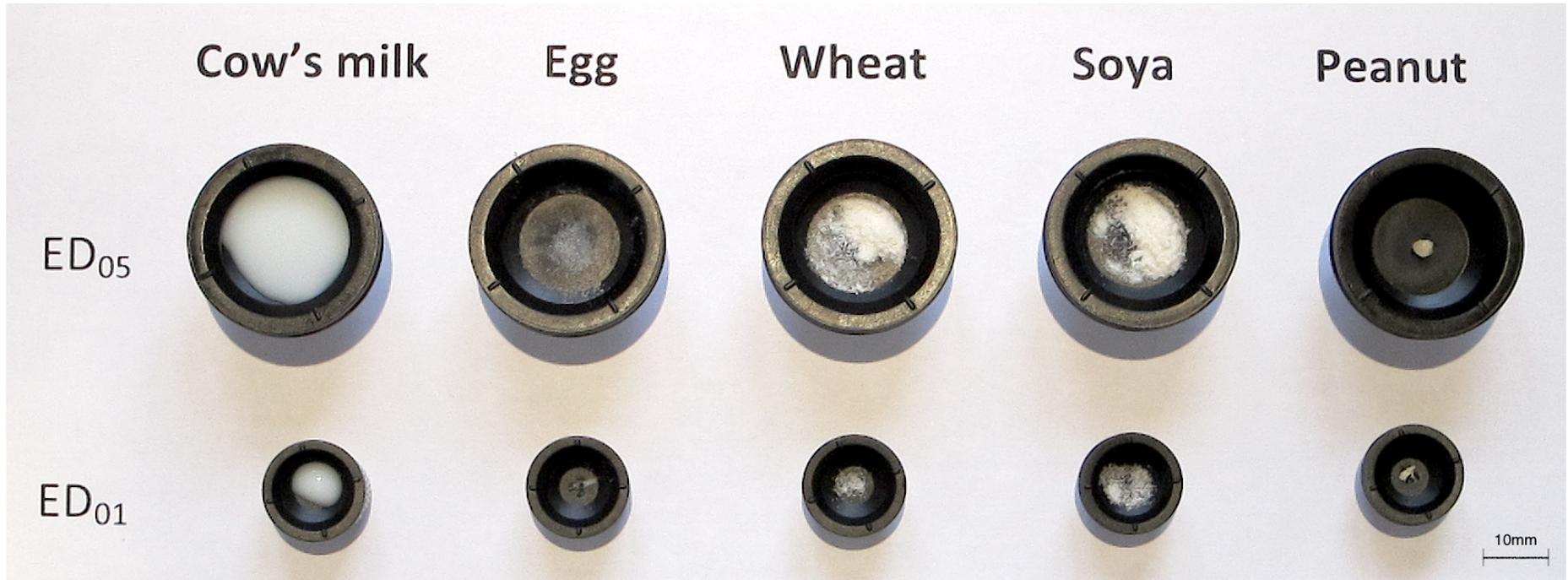
<sup>2</sup>Hefle et al. JACI 2007; 120:171-6.

## The reality:

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- Wide inconsistencies in labelling
- Foods can become contaminated with residues of allergenic foods at multiple points:
  - Harvesting on farms
  - Storage & transportation
  - Manufacture: shared equipment
- Measures to reduce cross-contamination not uniform across manufacturers

# Not a trace!



## What do consumers want?

Label Type	Median
Not suitable for someone with X allergy	1
May contain traces of X	3
May contain	3
Packaged in a facility that also processes X	4
Manufactured on equipment that process X	5

n=623

# Management

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1. Dietary Avoidance
2. Treatment of accidental reactions
3. Desensitisation?

## **Accidental/inadvertent reactions are common:**

- 1 in 8 peanut-allergic children experienced at least one accidental reaction every year<sup>1</sup>
- Over 50% of 512 infants had at least one reaction over 3 years follow-up<sup>2</sup>

**Avoidance is, therefore, inadequate on its own**

All food-allergic children need:

- Personalised Allergy Management Plan
- Rescue treatment (which may include AAI)

<sup>1</sup>Nguyen-Luu et al, PAI 2012; 23:133–139.    <sup>2</sup>Fleischer et al. Pediatrics 2012; 130:e25–32.

# Management

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1. Dietary Avoidance
2. Treatment of accidental reactions
3. Desensitisation?

# Desensitisation - does it work?



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doi:10.1017/S0007114513002353

## *Systematic review with meta-analysis*

### Effectiveness and safety of orally administered immunotherapy for food allergies: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Ulugbek Nurmatov<sup>1</sup>, Graham Devereux<sup>2</sup>, Allison Worth<sup>1</sup>, Laura Healy<sup>1</sup> and Aziz Sheikh<sup>1\*</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Allergy and Respiratory Research Group, Centre for Population Health Sciences, The University of Edinburgh, Medical School, Doorway 3, Teviot Place, Edinburgh EH8 9AG, UK*

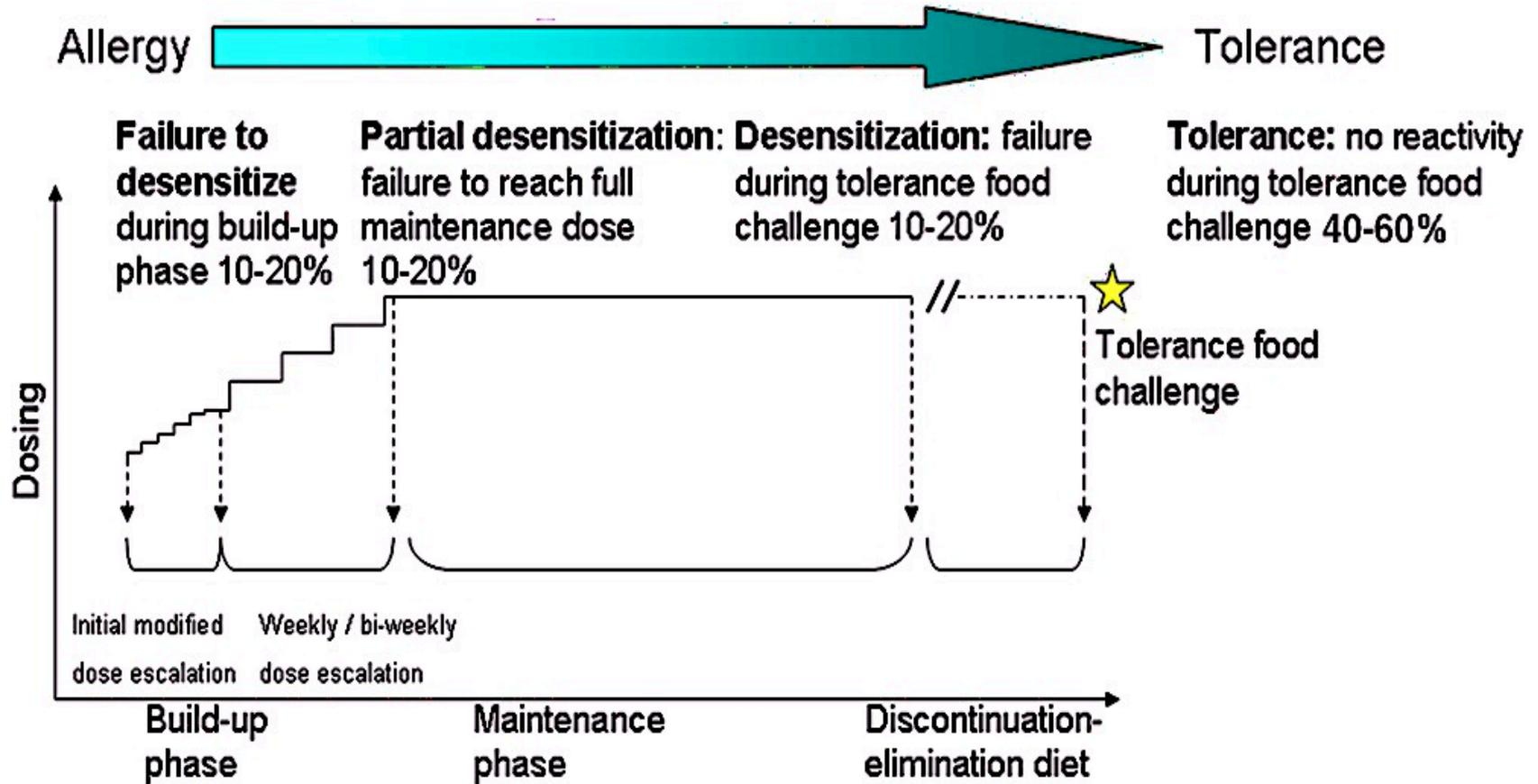
<sup>2</sup>*Department of Child Health, Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen AB25 2ZP, UK*

*(Submitted 3 January 2013 – Final revision received 15 May 2013 – Accepted 19 June 2013 – First published online 15 August 2013)*

## But is it safe as a routine treatment?

- OIT involves an increased risk for allergic reactions, including potentially **life-threatening symptoms** (bronchial/ laryngeal reactions, adrenaline use)
- OIT-related reactions are **largely unpredictable** (unrelated to cofactors/dose increases)
- **GI symptoms** are common - no effective treatment available
- **High risk patients:** patients with **persistent & severe allergy** do not fare well on OIT (high sIgE/SPT, asthma, bronchial/laryngeal \$)
- **Strict long-term commitment & supervision** is required to ensure compliance & control of underlying allergic diseases (mainly **asthma**), especially in **teenagers**

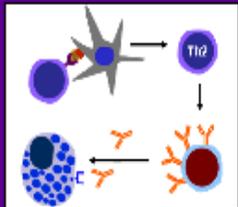
# What happens after initial desensitisation?



## Certificate of Advanced Study and MSc in Allergy

### Modules and Short Courses

#### The Scientific Basis of Allergy



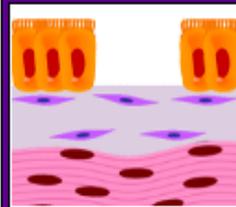
Module 1

#### Diagnosis & Treatment



Module 2

#### The Cutting Edge of Allergy



Module 3

#### Allergic Gastrointestinal Disease



Optional Module 1

#### Food Hypersensitivity



Optional Module 2

#### Allergic Airways Disease and Asthma



Optional Module 3

#### Rhinitis and Hayfever



Optional Module 4

#### Allergic Skin Disease



Optional Module 5

#### Paediatric Allergy



Optional Module 6

#### Research Skills



Dissertation Module

<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/medicine/study/postgraduate/masters-programmes/msc-pg-cert-allergy/>

Register your interest with our Course Administrator - [karen.davies@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:karen.davies@imperial.ac.uk)