

Identifying Latex Allergy TYPE I

For Patients and Staff

Latex allergy is an allergy to products made from natural rubber latex.

TYPE I Reaction Immunoglobulin E (IgE) antibody mediated reaction

- Immediate – reaction occurs minutes after exposure
- Late-phase – reactions may re-occur 2-4 hours after initial exposure

People most at risk of having or developing a latex allergy are those who have other allergies

Latex and some foods contain similar short sequences of amino acids and are recognized by antibodies and thus may react the same way

Certain people are at greater risk of developing a latex allergy

Latex allergy often begins with a rash on the hands when using natural rubber latex gloves but symptoms may then develop

Symptoms occur immediately on contact

Suffer from:

- Eczema
- Asthma
- Hayfever (Rhinitis)
- Dermatitis

Food allergy to:

- Avocado* • Banana*
- Chestnut* • Kiwi*
- Apple • Tomato
- Papaya • Potato
- Grape • Melons
- Celery

* higher probability

Are you:

- A healthcare worker
- A spina bifida sufferer
- A person with urinary tract abnormalities present at birth (congenital)
- A person who has undergone multiple surgeries or medical procedures
- Rubber industry worker

Have signs and symptoms of:

- Tingling, swelling, wheezing, or rashes associated with latex products:
- Rubber gloves, hot water bottles, elastic bands, condoms or a visit to the dentist

Identifying Chemical Allergy TYPE IV

For Patients and Staff

Chemical allergy is an allergy to specific chemical residues.

TYPE IV Reaction Allergic Contact Dermatitis (ACD)

Non IgE – T cell mediated response

Delayed type hypersensitivity as the reaction does not occur immediately:

Risk factor for the development of Latex Protein Allergy

Symptoms 6-48 hours after initial contact

Symptoms can last for up to 4 days

Do you suffer from:

- Blisters
- Erythema
- Swelling
- Cracking
- Itching
- Weeping
- Dryness of the skin at the site

Are you using products that contain:

- Polyoxypropyleneglycol
- Thiurams
- Carbamates
- Mercaptobenzothiazole (MBT)
- Lanolin
- Diphenylguanidine (DPG)
- Coloring pigmentation, preservatives

Identifying Irritant Contact Dermatitis

For Staff

This is a condition affecting the skin, and is not an allergy.

Irritant Contact Dermatitis (ICD)

Non-immune response

This type of contact dermatitis is more frequently encountered than allergic contact dermatitis:

Risk factor for the development of Latex Protein Allergy

Symptoms within minutes to hours after initial contact

Symptoms limited to site of exposure

Do you suffer from:

- Redness
- Chapping
- Chaffing
- Dryness
- Scaling
- Cracking

Are you exposed to:

- Detergents
- Frequently washing hands
- Inadequately dried hands
- Climate extremes
- Pre-existing dermatitis
- Aggressive scrubbing techniques
- Glove powder