

SUMMARY OF:

LATEX SENSITISATION AND ALLERGY IN CHILDREN WITH MYELOMENINGOCELE

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BACKGROUND

This article discusses the prevalence of latex sensitization and allergy in children with myelomeningocele in the Spina Bifida Centre of the Policlinico Gemelli (Rome). These patients are in contact with latex through repeated operations, catheterization and the implant of latex material.

OVERVIEW

Myelomeningocele patients are at risk of developing latex sensitization and allergy as they undergo various surgical procedures. The prevalence of latex sensitization in SB children is the highest in the general population.

RESULTS

Sixty patients between the ages of 1 year and 22 years were evaluated with a mean of 4.3 surgical procedures. 50% (29/60) of those showed sensitization to latex with 15% (9/60) showing a clinical allergy. The sensitized patients are at risk of suffering anaphylactic reaction if in contact with latex.

CONCLUSION

The implementation of latex-free operating rooms and the provision of non-latex products to spina bifida patients is important to minimize latex sensitization/allergy. Due to the high level of sensitization, prophylactic measurements are important to avoid exposure and prevent potentially serious allergic events. This has been implemented in the Spina Bifida Centre of the Policlinico Gemelli.

References 1. Rendeli et al., Latex Sensitisation and allergy in children with myelomeningocele. *Childs Nerv Syst* (2006) 22:28-32

This summary is written and provided by Ansell Healthcare LLC. Ansell Healthcare has attempted to summarize the published study as accurately as possible, but makes no representation to the accuracy of the summary. We refer the reader to the actual study for additional information.