

SUMMARY OF:

SEVERE ANAPHYLACTIC SHOCK WITHOUT EXANTHEMA IN A CASE OF UNKNOWN LATEX ALLERGY AND REVIEW OF LITERATURE

By: H. Hollnberger, E. Gruber, and B. Frank

BACKGROUND

This is an investigative study of an 8-year-old boy who was undergoing elective surgery, and had a severe case of anaphylactic shock. The anaphylactic shock was caused by a latex allergy, which was not known by clinicians prior to surgery.

OVERVIEW

The incident of severe anaphylactic shock is 1:6000 under general anesthesia or 1:7741 in children. In children 76% of the anaphylaxis is related to latex and 95% is attributed to muscle relaxants. This case report looked at all factors at which health care workers, children, adults, and children with spina bifida come to be latex sensitive.

RESULTS

Children with Spina Bifida had a 72% chance of latex hypersensitivity. Children who underwent one or more operations before the age of 6 months had a 25% chance of latex hypersensitivity, people allergic to particular fruits, healthcare workers (physicians OR nurses, and Anesthesia with the highest) had anywhere from a 5-17% chance of latex allergy, and individuals who had experienced 8 or more surgical procedures had an increased risk to a natural latex allergy.

CONCLUSION

The 8-year-old child did not have a history of a latex sensitivity allergy, but was considered high risk due to the amount of surgical procedures he had endured. Although anaphylactic reactions are rare under anesthesia, latex allergies cause the majority of these events to occur and have a high incident of morbidity and mortality. Allergies to fruits also increase the potential for a latex allergy. Clinicians should have asked questions regarding food allergies and total surgeries undergone. It is strongly recommended that hospitals should look to only use latex-free protocols as their standard operating procedure.

References 1. Hollnberger et al., Severe anaphylactic shock without exanthema in a case of unknown latex allergy and review of literature. *Pediatric Anaesthesia*. 2002; 12:544-551.

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Ansell Healthcare Products LLC
111 Wood Avenue, Suite 210
Iselin, NJ 08830 USA
Tel: + 1 732.345.5400
Fax: + 1 732.219.5114