

## SUMMARY OF:

### EFFICACY OF LATEX AVOIDANCE FOR PRIMARY PREVENTION OF LATEX SENSITIZATION IN CHILDREN WITH SPINA BIFIDA

By: Antonio Nieto, MD, Angel Mazón, MD, Rafael Pamies, MD, Amparo Lanuza, MD, Alberto Muñoz, MD, Francisco Estornell, MD, and Fernando García-Ibarra, MD

## BACKGROUND

Spina bifida (SB) children are at risk of latex allergy. This article reviews the prevalence of latex sensitization on SB children treated only with non-latex gloves in the 6 years following the introduction of non-latex in hospital La Fe, Spain vs. a control group born before the non-latex primary prevention was implemented.

## OVERVIEW

Natural Rubber Latex (NRL) Allergy is very prevalent in the hospitals posing a life-threatening risk. NRL allergy is the second cause of intraoperative anaphylactic reaction. Latex-free environment is the most important action to minimize the development of latex sensitization and possible serious anaphylactic reaction.

## RESULTS

Twenty-two SB children born after the non-latex environment was implemented were evaluated and compared with a control group of fifteen children born before September 1994 and with no preventative measurements for latex sensitization/allergy. The first group showed a latex sensitization incidence of 4.5% (1/22) vs. a 26.7% in the control group (4/15).

## CONCLUSION

Using latex for diagnostic and therapeutic procedures poses a prominent risk. The use of non-latex gloves as a primary prevention has showed a 6-fold decrease reported in the latex sensitization incidence. This preventative measurement should be applied to other children requiring multiple surgeries, especially if these take place at an early age.

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**References** 1. Nieto et al., Efficacy of latex avoidance for primary prevention of latex sensitisation in children with spina bifida. *The journal of pediatrics*. 2002; vol 140(3): 370-372

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