

SUMMARY OF:

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

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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.

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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