

ENT SURGICAL CONSULTANTS

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IMMUNOTHERAPY COMPARISON (7/08)

	Subcutaneous Immunotherapy (SCIT)	Sublingual Immunotherapy (SLIT)
Synonyms	Allergy shots	Allergy drops
Medication Cost	\$1600/year	\$720/year
Additional Costs	Transportation costs to the office and time commitment (20 minutes wait in office after each weekly treatment.)	Not for inhalant allergens. There is additional cost of \$180 per vial for pre-seasonal and food vials if needed.
Insurance Coverage	Yes, yet still responsible for deductible and co-payments.	No
Risk	Yes, there is a risk of a injection site localized reaction, asthma flare-up or anaphylaxis.	No
Pain	May be 1-4 shots which can cause pain.	None
Location of Treatment	Generally administered in our office only.	Home
Frequency of Administration	Once a week initially.	Three times a day placing drops under the tongue for 30 seconds, then swallow.
Duration of Treatment	3-5 years	3-5 years
Appropriate for infants or young children (<6 years old), or patient's with severe asthma, high sensitivity, difficult work or school schedules, live a far distance from the office,	Not in general, however exceptions do exist.	Yes
Pre-seasonal Dosing Available	No	Yes. @ \$180 additional per vial.
Compliance	30-50% Patient dependent.	80-97% Patient dependent.
FDA Approved	Yes	No, it is a off labeled route of administration of an FDA approved medication.
Effective	Yes	Yes *
Experimental	No	No

* Concluded to be effective by World Health Organization, American Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, American College Academy of Allergy Asthma and Immunology, Cochrane Collaboration