

ENT SURGICAL CONSULTANTS

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How Do Allergy Drops Work?

Allergy drop treatment works similar to shots by delivering a slowly increasing dose of physician-prescribed antigen that, over time, builds the body's tolerance. The difference is that the drops are placed under the tongue and affect the immune system through very specialized cells found under the tongue. Research shows these cells are a friendlier and effective route for long-term desensitization, making it an ideal option for patients who aren't candidates for shots. Patients take allergy drops each day for three to five years.

Are Allergy Drops Safe and Effective?

Allergy drops have been used around the world for more than 60 years, and many studies show that allergy drops are safe and effective. Dosing levels and the route of administration are safe enough to effectively treat infants, children, and people suffering from chronic conditions that previously made them unable to receive immunotherapy via shots.

In fact, the World Health Organization has endorsed sublingual immunotherapy as a viable alternative to injection therapy.

The well-respected Cochrane Collaboration, the world's most-trusted international organization dedicated to reviewing healthcare treatments, recently concluded allergy drop immunotherapy significantly reduced allergy symptoms and use of allergy medications.

What You Need To Know

Allergy drops for inhalant allergies are taken three times a day, every day. Allergy drops for food allergies are available at an additional cost. At this time, FDA approval for Sublingual Immunotherapy is pending. Therefore there are no acceptable codes for us to file claims with insurance. While overall allergy drops are cost effective, the patient is responsible for the entire cost of the treatment.

How To Proceed

Once you have completed all allergy testing and you and your physician decide allergy drops are the right choice for you, we are able to proceed with treatment.

You will need to pay for your allergy drops before they can be ordered. Cash, Check, Master Card, Visa, or Discover, are accepted.

At the time of payment you will receive a receipt for your allergy drops. This is the only documentation we can provide for Sublingual allergy treatment.

When your allergy drops are available, you will be given a call with a time to come to the allergy department to pick them up. This will normally be during regular injection hours. The first dose will be administered in office, to make sure you tolerate the drops. At the end of the 20 minute trial period you will be able to take your drops home.

You will receive enough allergen to last 3 months. When your drops are getting low, you will need to notify the office ahead of time. You can pay for your new drops over the phone at that time, using an acceptable credit card. For phone orders, you will receive a receipt, when you pick up your drops.

Sublingual Immunotherapy Treatment Is Similar To Injection Therapy

Testing & Evaluation

Our first step is to confirm which allergies are present and how severe they are. Patient history plays a large role here. Skin testing is used to confirm potential allergies. In Most cases we use a combination of Prick Testing and Intradermal Skin Tests to help assess how severe the allergy may be. In vitro (blood) testing may be used to identify food and inhalant

allergies. Periodic Intradermal skin testing, during the course of treatment is used to monitor desensitization progress.

Environmental Control

Once allergies are confirmed, we help patients find ways to avoid allergens by suggesting changes in diet and lifestyle when possible.

Pharmacology

To help reduce symptoms, you might be prescribed medications, such as non-sedating antihistamines and nose sprays. As treatment continues, most patients find their need for medication decreases.

Immunotherapy

Allergy drops, customized for the patient's specific allergies, helps alter the disease state so that eventually, allergic reactions are no longer a problem. With allergy drops, patients are able to be treated at home. Your physician will monitor your progress throughout your care.

What is sublingual immunotherapy

Unlike most allergy drugs – which treat only symptoms – sublingual immunotherapy addresses the underlying causes of allergies. Allergy drops are administered in gradually increasing dosages until the patient develops a tolerance to the allergy-causing substance.

What is an antigen

An antigen is an allergy-causing substance. Examples include dust, pollen, mold, insect venom and specific foods such as fish, wheat, corn and eggs

What kind of allergies can be treated with allergy drops

The benefit of sublingual immunotherapy is that a broad range of allergies, including those caused by dust mites, pollen, mold, animals, and foods can be treated.

Is it safe and effective

Sublingual immunotherapy has been used in various parts of the world for 60-plus years. More than 100 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals prove that sublingual treatment is both safe and effective.

What are advantages of allergy drops

Allergy drops are a safe, effective treatment for young children, asthmatics, the highly reactive and those with underlying medical conditions that prevent them from being candidates for injection therapy. Allergy drops also offer an option for immunotherapy for those who are unable to make it into office weekly for allergy injections.

Can I switch from Allergy Injections

Yes, with an order from your physician at ENT Surgical Consultants. However, it is not advised to switch back and forth

Taste

Most patients report not noticing much taste at all. The allergens are normally preserved in a 50% glycerin preservative, therefore, they may have a sweet taste. Occasionally some patients report a more noticeable taste. This is an individual response.

Side Effects

Side effects to allergy drops are minimal. You may experience some localized reaction of itchiness, slight numbness, or a tingling sensation. You may also notice some stomach discomfort. If you experience side effects, call the allergy department for directions. (Reminder: the allergy department is open Mon-Thurs.)

For more Information about Sublingual Immunotherapy Visit: www.allergychoices.com