



Safety of allergen Immunotherapy in seniors - results of a 2 year observational study

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Background

Allergen immunotherapy's (AIT) use in the aged population remains limited, due to common comorbidities and limited evidence of efficacy and safety of AIT in aging population.

Aims

To assess the safety of AIT in patients over 55, undergoing subcutaneous immunotherapy (SCIT) and analyze the potential risk factors of adverse reactions in this population, compared to younger adults.

Methods

We followed SCIT in a group of 1302 patients, of whom 163 were aged 55 and older. We recorded detailed information of each administration and corresponding adverse reactions over the period of 2 years. We compiled results of our observations with hospital records in a database, which we then analyzed statistically.

Results

568 patients experienced at least one adverse reaction, local or systemic. We observed no significant difference in AE occurrence between adult and senior group. Further analysis showed that while both groups had similar per-patient incidence of local reactions we observed noticeably fewer systemic events in seniors. Interestingly, while less common, systemic AEs appeared to be more severe in the aged population, with as many as 4,9% of the group having experienced WAO grade 2 reactions, compared to 2,4% in young adult group. No grade 3 or 4 reactions were observed in the course of the study.

Multivariate statistical analysis of potential risk factors did not reveal any difference between groups, common risk factors included SCIT in patients with asthma, treatment with HDM and natural extracts.

Conclusions

While numerous comorbidities and polypragmasy may promote more intense adverse events in seniors during SCIT, we observed no severe reactions in this aged population during a 2 year observation period. SCIT in the elderly is safe and well tolerated.

In relation to this presentation, authors declare that there are no conflicts of interest.