Classification, pathogenesis and diagnostics of allergic diseases

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- Billions of immune cells communicate with each other.
- Functional integration of the immune system is accomplished mainly by cell-to- cell communication
- Every immune system
  cell is equipped with
  different surfface
  molecules and is able to
  synthesize and release
  a variety of small
  molecules that travel to
  other cells and stimulate
  those cells to become
  either more active or
  less active



### "know that I know nothing" Socrates

















A LEADER LAND

#### Prävalenzen von Allergien

		Welt	Europa	Schweiz
	Allerg. Rhinitis	> 500 Mio.	90 Mio.	2 Mio.
and a	Asthma	300 Mio.	25 Mio.	0,6 Mio.
	Nahrungsmittelallergie	250 Mio.	17 Mio.	

Medikamentenallergie

5% hospitalisierter Patienten

39-36-36-



## <u>Overview</u>

- Definitions (Allergy/Atopy and Allergens)
- Types of allergic reactions
- Immuncells and Mechanism involved in development of allergic reactions
- Diagnostic
- Treatment

## **Definitions**

**Atopy:** genetic determined readiness to react by IgE formation to substances taken up via aerogen or gastro-intestinal routes

**Sensitization:** immune reaction to a foreign substance (proven in skin tests, serology, cellular tests...)

Allergy: immune reaction to a non replicating (harmless) substance (protein, chemical, drug, metal), which leads to clinical symptoms.

In contrast to infections: symptoms are caused almost exclusively by the immune reaction, not by the "bug" (virus, bacteria, etc.)

## Allergens

- Non-reproducing foreign substances
- Mostly Proteins/Glykoproteins
  - Of animal or vegetable origin
  - Drugs/Chemicals

#### Pflanzen: > 3500 Arten Schweiz Pilze: ~ 10'000 Arten Schweiz Tiere: ~ 1,5 Millionen Welt

Hymenopteren: 100'000 Welt Berufsstoffe: > 400 beschrieben

Arzneimittel: ~ 7000 Swissmedic

Allergens = 2% of proteins

Radauer et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2008

# The allergy is **not** directed to pollen, but to proteins within pollen !

Pollen = carrier (grain) + allergen (surface) + lipids







#### Betula verrucosa 1 Bet v 1

Major Allergen



#### <u>Pollen</u>



#### Early and late blooming flowers www.pollenundallergie.ch / www.meteoschweiz.ch



## House dust mites allergens are a common cause of asthma and allergic symptoms worldwide

- <u>D. pteronyssinus (european)</u>
- <u>D. farinae (american)</u>
- feed on organic detritus, such as flakes of shed human skin

The mite's gut contains potent digestive enzymes (proteases) that persist in their feces







## Allergic to your Pet?

Hilger C, Zahradnik E. Allergologie 2015;38:83-90

Can f 1

saliva

Fel d 1 saliva and skin



1PUO:B

spezies	Allergen	Proteinfamilie	UniProtKB accession No	Apparentes MG in kDa	Allergenquelle	Sensibili- sierungsra- te in % <sup>1</sup>	In-vitro- Diagnostik verfügbar
Katze	Fel d 1	Sekretoglobin	P30438; P30440	18	Speicheldrüse, Haut	60 - 100	ja
	Fel d 2	Serumalbumin	P49064	69	Leber	14 - 23	ja
	Feld 3	Cystatin	Q8WNR9	11	Haut	10	nein
0.53	Fel d 4	Lipokalin	Q5VFH6	22	Speicheldrüse	63	ja
1999	Fel d 5	IgA	-	400	Speichel, Serum	38	nein
	Feld 6	IgM	-	800 - 1000	Serum	-	nein
	Feld 7	Lipokalin	E5D2Z5	17,5	Zunge	38	nein
	Fel d 8	Latherin	F6K0R4	24	Speicheldrüse	19	nein
Hund	Can f 1	Lipokalin	018873	23 - 25	Zunge	50 - 75	ja
	Can f 2	Lipokalin	O18874	19	Zunge, Speichel- drüse	22 - 30	ja
	Can f 3	Serumalbumin	P49822	69	Leber	25 - 35	ja
	Can f 4	Lipokalin	D7PBH4	18	Zunge	35	nein
	Can f 5	Kallikrein	P09582	28	Urin	70	ja
	Can f 6	Lipokalin	H2B3G5	27 - 29	Speicheldrüse	61	nein

#### Bee / Wasp Allergy





Api m 1	Phospho	lipase A <sub>2</sub>		7		
Api m 3	Saure P	hosphatas	e	,		
Api m 4		Mellitin		Phospholipase A	Ves v 1	
Api n	n 10	Icarapin		Antigen 5	Ves v 5	
	Api m 2		Hyaluronidasen	Ve	es v 2	
	Api m 5		Dipeptidylpeptidase	en Ve	es v 3	
	Api m 12		Vitellogenine	Ve	es v 6	

### Peanut allergy



#### **Classification according to mechanisms**

IgE mediated immune reactions:

e.g. rhinitis & conjunctivitis, asthma, urticaria, anaphylaxis

#### IgG mediated reactions:

vasculitis, immune hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia and granulocytopenia, Arthus reaction

#### T-cell reactions:

contact dermatitis, drug allergies, atopic dermatitis, asthma

#### Immediate type Reaktion



Type of Reaction	Time Before Clinical Signs	Characteristics	Examples
Type I (Anaphylactic)	<30 min	IgE binds to mast cells or basophils; causes degranulation of mast cell or basophil and release of reactive substances such as histamine	Anaphylactic shock from drug injections and insect venom; common allergic conditions, such as hay fever, asthma
Type II (Cytotoxic)	5-12 hours	Antigen causes formation of IgM and IgG antibodies that bind to target cell; when combined with action of complement, destroys target cell	Transfusion reactions, Rh incompatibility
Type III (Immune Complex)	3-8 hours	Antibodies and antigens form complexes that cause damaging inflammation	Arthus reactions, serum sickness
Type IV (Delayed Cell- Mediated, or Delayed Hypersensitivity)	24-48 hours	Antigens activate $T_C$ that kill target cell	Rejection of transplanted tissues; contact dermatitis, such as poison ivy; certain chronic diseases, such as tuberculosis

delayed type Reaktion



	The Five Immunoglobulin (Ig) Classes								
	lgM pentamer	lgG monomer	Secretory IgA dimer	lgE monomer	lgD monomer				
			Secretory component						
Heavy chains	μ	γ	α	ε	δ				
Number of antigen binding sites	10	2	4	2	2				
Molecular weight (Daltons)	900,000	150,000	385,000	200,000	180,000				
Percentage of total antibody in serum	6%	80%	13%	0.002%	1%				
Crosses placenta	no	yes	no	no	no				
Fixes complement	yes	yes	no	no	no				
Fc binds to		phagocytes		mast cells and basophils					
Function	Main antibody of primary responses, best at fixing complement; the monomer form of IgM serves as the B cell receptor	Main blood antibody of secondary responses, neutralizes toxins, opsonization	Secreted into mucus, tears, saliva, colostrum	Antibody of allergy and antiparasitic activity	B cell receptor				











## The immune system is highly specific and needs danger signals to become activated

How can a harmless/innocuous substance like a pollen potentially induce an IgE mediated immune reaction ?

## Ability of "innocuous" proteins to activate immune system

1. House dust mite allergen Der p1: cysteine protease cleaves tight junction protein occludin  $\rightarrow$  Increased epithelial permeability and facilitating its entry into the tissue

2. House dust mite allergen Der p2: structural and functional homology with MD-2, LPS-binding component of TLR 4 signaling complex  $\rightarrow$  facilitates signaling through direct interactions with the TLR4 complex

3. Pollen-associated lipid mediators (PALMs): When pollen grains are hydrated on the respiratory epithelia, they release allergens and eicosanoid lipids  $\rightarrow$  so-called pollen-associated lipid mediators (PALMs)  $\rightarrow$  act as stimulators of DC

#### Airway immune response



J. van Tongeren et al. Allergy 2008: 63: 1124–1135



#### Airway immune response



J. van Tongeren et al. Allergy 2008: 63: 1124–1135



## What drives Th2 polarisation ?

- antigen dose,
- nature of the antigen,
- direct cell-to-cell interaction with APCs
- the cytokine receptors available on the naive cell
- Genetic predisposition
- environmental factors
- gastrointestinal Flora

## What drives Th2 polarisation ?

- IL-2 proliferation and clonal expansion of T cells
- IL-4 An autocrine of Th2 cells during their maturation
- IL-6 is secreted by T cells and macrophages
- IL-31 activated CD4+ T lymphocytes, in particular activated TH2 helper cells, mast cells, macrophages, and dendritic cells.
   IL-31 is believed to play a role in atopic dermatitis and eczema.
- IL-33 is expressed by a wide variety of cell types, including fibroblasts, mast cells, dendritic cells, macrophages, osteoblasts, endothelial cells, and epithelial cells
- TSLP is produced mainly by non-hematopoietic cells such as fibroblasts, epithelial cells and different types of stromal or stromal-like cells

## **Hygien-Hypothesis**

#### «Western» Lifestyle

#### **Traditional Lifestyle**




Gern et al. Nature Reviews 2002

→ Microbial exposure boosts Th1 response

→ Microbial exposure alters Th2 response

Response starts in utero

Protective effect of the farm environment

Protective effect by parasite infection

# **PARSIFAL Studie**

Braun-Fahrländer C et al, J Allergy Clin Immunol 2006; 117:59-66





# Too much hygiene is harmful for horses !!!!

Clean stables increase allergic diseases in horses. - in Switzerland every 10<sup>th</sup> hors have

Asthma to Hay-/stables

Prof. Vinzenz Gerber, Ho

Rorn 2009

#### Sensitization Phase





Sourece: http://www.biolegend.com/category\_costimulatory\_molecules\_human







### <u>Cross linking of 2 Fc-IgE-RI</u> Is required for mast cell activation

Mediator release



# Mast cell



Nature Reviews | Immunology

### symptoms of immediate reaction

### Eyes: Conjunctivitis

### Nose: Rhinitis

Lungs: Asthma Skin: Urticaria Angioedema









# **Anaphylaxis**

- = potentially life threatening situation; rapid onset
- Massive mediator release
- different organs are involved (skin, respiratory, cardiovascular system)
- most frequent cause in Switzerland: hymenoptera venom allergy, drug allergy, food allergy

## Symptoms of IgE induced <u>late</u> reaction

### <u>chronic</u>

- Swelling
- Infiltration by inflammatory cells
- Damage to epithelia
- Thickening of basal membrane, restructuring of lung tissue
- Mucus production

(LT, cytokine, PG, PAF, ECP, EPO, EDN,... IL-13, TNFa) blocked nose

bronchial hyper reactivity

reduced lung function

# Adverse reaction Food

- 1. Toxic
- 2. Nontoxic
  - A) Immune mediated
    - IgE mediated
    - Non-IgE mediated
  - B) Non immune mediated (food intolerance)
    - enzymatic (e.g. lactase deficiency)
    - pharmacological (abnormal reactivity to substances e.g. amines)
    - undefined (e.g. food additive intolerance)



Food sensitization develops as a consequence of sensitization to airborne allergens Food sensitization occurs by gastrointestinal tract (often stable proteins)

Mostly adults, cross reactivity

Mostly in children "real food allergy"

# Oral allergy syndrome

Sensitization to heat/pepsine labile plant-derived proteins in patients with pollen allergy

Cross reactivity between homologous plant derived proteins and pollen proteins

Bet v1  $\rightarrow$  nuts, apple, kiwi

heated normally well tolerated





Allergen cross reactivity seems to be due to IgE antibodies that recognize structurally similar epitopes on different proteins that are phylogenetically closely related or present evolutionarily conserved structures

# Allergen cross reactivity structurally similar epitopes on different proteins



net mademaker

Crystallographic Pru a1 and Bet VI Neudecker P et al. Biochem J 2005



# Food allergy - crossreaktivity

#### celery-birch-mugwort-spices syndrome





#### shellfish and dust mite allergy





# Food allergy - crossreaktivity

Latex-fruit syndrome



Cat-pork syndrome



Pig serum albumine





Food sensitization develops as a consequence of sensitization to airborne allergens Food sensitization occurs by gastrointestinal tract (often stable proteins)

Mostly adults, cross reactivity

Mostly in children "real food allergy"

# Lipid transfer proteins

Role in defence against fungi and bacteria

Heat stable, begin to unfold above 95°, protein refold on cooling

More severe allergic reactions









# Peanut allergy



# Triggers of food allergy - age groups

Worm M et al. Dtsch Arzteblatt Int 2014:111: 367-75 Worm M et al. Allergo J Int 2015:24:256-93





# Bee / Wasp Allergy





Api m 1	Phospho	lipase A <sub>2</sub>		7		
Api m 3	Saure P	hosphatas	e	,		
Api m 4		Mellitin		Phospholipase A	Ves v 1	
Api n	n 10	Icarapin		Antigen 5	Ves v 5	
	Api m 2		Hyaluronidasen	Ve	es v 2	
	Api m 5		Dipeptidylpeptidase	en Ve	es v 3	
	Api m 12		Vitellogenine	Ve	es v 6	

#### Mortality due to bee /wasp sting in Switzerland 1961 – 2012 Erwin K. Wüest, EDI BFS



### Local reactions after hymenoptera stings



Large local reaction= Swelling exceeding 10 cm

Not an Allergy !

# Classification of hymenoptera allergic reactions



# Classification according to Mueller

# Drug allergy

### Haptens

Small molecules alone are not immunogenic!

Haptens = reactive proteins binding to a larger protein  $\rightarrow$  hapten-carrier complex

- $\rightarrow$  resistant to intracellular processing
- $\rightarrow$  danger signal (activation of innate immunity e.g. DC's)
- → forms neo-antigenic determinants able to induce both a Tcell and B-cell immune response.





# p-i concept:

a) the drug binds first to
the TCR (by non covalent bonds; not restricted to a HLA-allele)

### b) the drug binds first to the HLA molecule, and the HLA-peptide-drug complex is then recognized by the TCR

(HLA-class I restricted, CD8)

## IgE mediated drug allergies (immediate reactions)

Anaphylactic IgE-mediated reactions Flushing, pruritus, urticaria, angioedema, laryngeal edema, rhinorrhea, conjunctivitis, shortness of breath, wheezing, bronchospasm,	Antibiotics <u>Beta-lactams</u> Penicillins, cephalosporins, amino-penicillins <u>Fluroquinolones</u> Ciprofloxacin, levofloxacin	Sepsis Meningitis Pneumonia Pyelonephritis
nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension	<b>Chemotherapy drugs</b> <u>Platins</u> Carboplatin, cisplatin, oxaliplatin	Primary and recurrent metastatic cancers (breast, ovarian, colon)
	Monoclonal antibodies Rituximab, trastuzumab	Chronic inflammatory diseases, cancers (leukemias, breast, ovarian )

### Desensitization often possible!!!

# Non-IgE mediated drug allergies (immediate reactions)

Anaphylactoid Direct mast cell/basophil, complement, and leukotriene metabolism reactions	Aspirin/NSAIDs	Cardiac protection, asthma w/ nasal polyposis, chronic inflammatory diseases (RA, Crohn's)		
Flushing, pruritus, urticaria, angioedema, throat tightness,	Vancomycin	MRSA		
shortness of breath, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, hypotension, hypertension, back and/or abdominal pain	<b>Chemotherapy drugs</b> <u>Taxenes</u> Paclitaxel, docetaxel	Primary and recurrent metastatic cancers (breast, ovarian, colon)		

Pseudo-allergic reactions radio contrast media: direct membrane effects related to the osmolarity of contrast media solution

# Symptoms of T cell mediated drug allergy

- Makulo-papular Exanthem
- bullous Exanthem
- Acute generalized exanthematous Pustulosis (AGEP)
- Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS) toxic-epidermal Necrolysis (TEN)
- DRESS, Hepatitis, interstitial Nephritis, Pneumonitis



Antibody (I–III) and T cell-orchestrated hypersensitivity reactions (IVa–d)							
	Туре I	Type II	Type III	Type IVa	Type IVb	Type IVc	Type IVd
Immune reactant	lgE	lgG	lgG	IFNγ , TNFα (T <sub>H</sub> 1 cells)	IL-5, IL-4/IL-13 (T <sub>H</sub> 2 cells)	Perforin/ granzymeB (CTL)	CXCL-8, IL-17 GM-CSF (T cells)
Antigen	Soluble antigen	Cell- or matrix- associat ed antigen	Soluble antigen	Antigen presented by cells or direct T cell stimulation	Antigen presented by cells or direct T cell stimulation	Cell-associated antigen or direct T cell stimulation	Soluble antigen presented by cells or direct T cell stimulation
Ef ector	Mast cell activation	FcR+ cells (phagocytes, NK cells)	FcR+ cells complement	Macrophage activation	Eosinophils	Tcells	Neutrophils
	Ag I N	Platelets	Immune complex Blood vessel	IFN-y T <sub>H</sub> 1 Chemokines, cytokines, cytotoxins	T <sub>H</sub> 2 IL-4 IL-5 Eotaxin Eosino- phil Oytokines, inf ammatory mediators		CXCL8 GM-CSF Oytokines, inf ammatory mediators
Example of hypersen- sitivity reaction	Allergic rhinitis, asthma, systemic anaphylaxis	Hemolytic anemia, thrombocytopenia (e.g. penicillin)	Serum sickness, Arthus reaction	Tuberculin reaction, contact dermatitis (with IVc)	Chronic asthma, chronic allergic rhinitis Maculopapular exanthema with eosinophilia	Contact dermatitis Maculopapular and bullous exanthema hepatitis	AGEP Behçet disease
## **Contact Dermatitis**

non-infectious reaction of the skin to external substances

<u>Allergic contact dermatitis</u> T- Zell mediated immune response to contactallergens like:

- Nickel, Ianolin, Peru balsam or potassium dichromate
- jewellery, medication cosmetics, dyes impregnating agents

Irritative contact dermatitis

Non immune mediated response to physical, chemical irritants and physical influences

- rubbing, pressure, heat and cold or UV rays
- water, soap, disinfectants,

## Allergic Contact Dermatitis

- The reaction usually occurs 24–48 hours after contact with the allergenic substance.
- The skin is inflamed and reddened, it may swell up and blisters or papules may appear.
- The skin reaction appears at the site of the body where the skin came into contact with the irritant, but may also spread to nearby or remote regions of the skin.



## Allergic Contact Dermatitis



## **Allergy diagnosis**

#### Allergy = sensitization + clinical symptoms





#### Skin pricktest

#### Serum IgE





#### **Basophil activation Test**



#### **Conjunctival provocation tests (CPT, allergen solution)**



No standardization of CPT; no grading of ocular reactions

Digital image analysis possesses the potential of being an objective evaluation method compared to the wide-spread subjective Dogan et al. Int Arch Allergy Immunol 2014;163:59–68

## **Diagnosis of food allergy**



Bet v 1 versus Pru p 3



Food challenge Tests



## Peanut allergy



## Patch Tests





## Therapy principles

- 1. Symptomatic therapy
- antihistamines
- corticosteroids
- leukotrien antagonists
- antiasthmatics (inhalativ medication)
- biologics (Omalizumab anti-IgE, Mepolizumab anti-IL5)

Inhibition of inflammatory mediatores released during ef fector phase:



#### Anti IgE therapy (omalizumab)



#### Binding of omalizumab to the cɛ3 domain of IgE.

Adapted from Francés et al. 2014 Actas Dermosifiliogr. 2014;105:45-52. - Vol. 105 Num.01



Nature Reviews | Immunology

Stephen T. Holgate & Riccardo Polosa Nature Reviews Immunology **8**, 218-230 (March 2008)

## **Therapy principles**

2. Specific /causal therapy

Allergen-specific Immunotherapy = alters course of disease

## **Bee keepers**



Systemic reactions in 45% of beekeepers with <15 bee sting / year

No/less systemic reactions in Beekeepers with > 200 bee sting / year

Why???

http://www.spiegel.de/fotostrecke/imkern-extrem-27-kilogrammbienen-am-koerper-fotostrecke-70505.html

## Allergen-specific Immunotherapy

The only causal therapy of allergic Diseases

1998 WHO accepts the therapy

Bousquet, Lockey Malling. WHO position paper. J Allergy Clin Immunol 1998;102:55-62



#### Reduktion allergischer Symptome

Calderon et al. JACI 2011;127:30-8 Radulovic et al. Allergy 2011;66:740-52

#### Asthma prevention

Douglas et al. Pediatrics 1968; 42: 793 Jacobsen et al. Allergy 2007;62:943-8 Möller et al. JACI 2002; 109: 251-256 Schmitt J et al. JACI 2015;136:1511-6

## Sublingual Immuntherapy SLIT

Passalacqua et al. JACI 2007;119:881-91



#### **Mechanisms of SIT**



Burks et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2013;131:1288-96.

# Efficacy of different Interventions in seasonal allergic Rhinitis (1. year)

Matricardi et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2011;128:791-9



## **Side effects of SCIT**

## Severity of side effects: Mild symptoms to life-threatening anaphylaxis and even death

Table 2. Systemic Reactions (SRs) per 10,000 Injection Visits<sup>a</sup> between July 2008 and 2010

	Year 1 (7/1/2008– 7/31/2009)	Year 2 (8/1/2009– 7/31/2010)
Any type of SR	10.2	9.7
Grade 1 (mild SRs)	7.6	6.7
Grade 2 (moderate SRs)	2.3	2.7
Grade 3 (severe SRs)	0.3	0.4

Immediate and delayed-onset systemic reactions after subcutaneous immunotherapy injections: ACAAI/AAAAI surveillance study of subcutaneous immunotherapy–year 2 Tolly G. Epstein et al. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2011;107:426–431.

## SLIT has a better safety profile than SCIT (home administration possible)



## Allergy?

# specific immune reaction to harmless foreign substances with clinical symptoms

### Sensitisation and Atopy /= Allergy

## Type 1 hypersensitivity

Key Players:

Allergen-	Allergen	<b>F</b> eeinenkile
specific IgE		Eosinophils

B cells	TH2	Cytokines	
		(IL-4, IL-5, IL-13)	

APC

**Tissue Mast cells** 

Chemokines

# Are IgE antibodies needed for Mast cell activation ?

Yes

No

### Is allergen needed to induce anaphylaxis?

Yes

No

# Which antibody is blocked by omalizumab (Xolair) ?

#### IgE

#### IgM

#### lgG

IgA

# What is the only causal therapy for allergic diseases ?

Corticostroids ?

Xolair?

#### Antihistamines?

#### Allergen-specific immunotherapy ?