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Abstract

Eur Ann Allergy Clin Immunol. 2004 Apr;36(4):131-8.

Efficacy and safety of specific immunotherapy to mosquito bites.

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Abstract

BACKGROUND: Adverse effects of mosquito bites are often very unpleasant and need a treatment.

OBJECTIVE: To evaluate the efficacy of specific immunotherapy (S.I.T) with an extract of the whole body of the mosquito *Aedes communis*.

METHOD: Twenty patients having strong local immediate and delayed reactions with in many cases also an allergic rhinitis, were selected. A similar control group was included. In all these patients skin tests, RASTs and nasal provocation tests were carried out with an extract of *Aedes communis* and a battery of the commonest allergens in our area including two insects : *Blatella germanica* (german cockroach) and *Gasterophilus intestinalis* (horse fly). The specific immunotherapy was carried out by the conventionnal subcutaneous route.

RESULTS: After 18 months of S.I.T all the patients reported the disappearance of local reactions and symptoms of allergic rhinitis, which was correlated with a statistically improvement of symptom and drug consumption scores and a decrease of allergenic reactivity by the nasal provocation test.

CONCLUSIONS: S.I.T with an extract of *Aedes communis* produced after 18 months of treatment a significant improvement of allergic symptoms, a decrease of symptom and drug consumption scores and of allergen specific nasal reactivity. S.I.T in mosquito bite allergy appears to be effective and safe in the treatment of both cutaneous and respiratory symptoms.

PMID: 15180354 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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