

Test yourself in allergy diagnosis

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Choose only one answer:

- 1. Causes of false negative skin prick test results include all except:**
 - a. Drugs modulating the allergic reaction
 - b. Diseases attenuating the skin response
 - c. Improper technique (no or weak puncture)
 - d. Very high serum IgE level

- 2. Causes of false positive skin prick test results include all except:**
 - a. Dermatographism
 - b. Irritant reactions
 - c. Extracts of poor initial potency or subsequent loss of potency
 - d. Enhancement from a nearby strong reaction

- 3. A common error on skin prick testing is:**
 - a. Tests are more than 2 cm away
 - b. Induction of bleeding
 - c. Testing in the skin of the back
 - d. Leaving skin to dry after antiseptic

- 4. The following are allergens that may cause asthma except:**
 - a. Aspergillus
 - b. Blomia tropicalis
 - c. Cat dander
 - d. Peanut butter
 - e. Smoke

- 5. Mark the correct statement**
 - a. SPT measures mainly sensitization not allergy
 - b. Infection with leprosy can lead to a negative SPT
 - c. A patient with a positive SPT test may not react upon challenge
 - d. Patients with widespread eczema cannot be tested in areas of affected skin
 - e. All of the above

- 6. The following medications alter SPT results except:**
 - a. Sedating antihistamines
 - b. Non-sedating antihistamines
 - c. Antidepressants
 - d. Inhaled corticosteroids

- 7. One of the following statements is true:**
 - a. There is cross reactivity between cockroach and shrimp allergens
 - b. Food allergy is more common in adults than young children with asthma
 - c. There is cross reactivity between latex and beef
 - d. H2 antagonists have major effect on SPT results

- 8. Indications of serum allergen specific IgE include all except:**
 - a. Positive challenge test
 - b. Patient cannot stop antihistamines
 - c. Patient is morbidly afraid of skin testing
 - d. Dermatographism

- 9. Mark the incorrect statement:**
 - a. SPT cannot be performed before 4-6 weeks following anaphylaxis
 - b. The value of serum specific IgE testing is limited by the cost and delay in obtaining the results
 - c. False-positive results of blood testing can occur due to nonspecific binding of antibody in the assay
 - d. SPT can be used to assess the efficacy of immunotherapy

10. Component resolved diagnosis means:

- a. Using purified native or recombinant allergens to detect IgE sensitivity
- b. Using individual allergen molecules in allergy diagnosis
- c. Utilize molecular-based allergy diagnostics
- d. All of the above
- e. None of the above

11. Molecular based diagnostics are valuable in all of the following except:

- a. Resolving genuine versus cross-reactive sensitization in poly-sensitized patients
- b. Assessing the risk of severe systemic versus mild reactions in food allergy
- c. Diagnosing cases of cell-mediated allergic reactions
- d. Identifying patients and triggering allergens for specific immunotherapy

12. When to do a food challenge test?

- a. When the SPT result to fish is just positive (>3 mm but less than 8 mm)
- b. When mother insists that her child reacts to a food although the SPT results are negative
- c. In cell-mediated reactions after successful elimination
- d. When the Specific IgE level is positive but not high enough to diagnose allergy
- e. All of the above

13. One of the following statements is false:

- a. Bronchial provocation testing cannot be done before 5 years of age
- b. Provocation testing is not preferred during beta-blocker therapy
- c. Pollen allergy is common during infancy
- d. The value of serum total IgE in the diagnosis of allergy is limited
- e. None of the above

(Answers on page 83)