

Allergy-Immunology Glossary

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Towards a clear designation of some of the terms used in allergology and immunology.

- Atopy** In the early 1920s, Coca & Cooke introduced the term atopy and considered it to be a hereditary, qualitatively abnormal response occurring in particular individuals that is clinically characterized by hay fever and bronchial asthma and associated with immediate type (wheal-and-flare) skin reactions¹. The term atopy is explained in medical dictionaries as hypersensitivity due to hereditary influences². In 2001, the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology Nomenclature Task Force¹ published their position paper concerning nomenclature in allergology. They defined the term "atopy" as follows:
"Atopy is a personal or familial tendency to produce IgE antibodies in response to low doses of allergens, usually proteins, and to develop typical symptoms such as asthma, rhinoconjunctivitis, or eczemat dermatitis." ³ أتوبية – تماحل
- Hypersensitivity** Exaggerated susceptibility to a substance or stimulus².
"Hypersensitivity causes objectively reproducible symptoms or signs, initiated by exposure to a defined stimulus at a dose tolerated by normal subjects."
It includes all kinds of adverse reactions to food, side effects of drugs, psychological reactions to environmental factors and others¹. ³ فرط الحساسية
- Allergy** *"Is an acquired change in host reactivity mediated by an immunologic mechanism and causing an untoward physiologic response."*⁴ OR
*"It is a hypersensitivity reaction initiated by immunologic mechanisms."*¹
Gell and Coombs, in the 1960s⁵, identified four types of allergic (immunologic hypersensitivity) reactions that may possibly interact in the one and same patient. Types I (IgE-mediated), II & III (non-IgE-mediated) are humoral and type IV is cell-mediated. ³ أرجية – الأيرجية

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