

Allergy-immunology glossary

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

Genetic Polymorphism	Synonym(s) polymorphic allele. Natural variations in a gene, DNA sequence, protein, or chromosome that have no adverse effect on the individual and occur with fairly high frequency in the general population. Polymorphism involves one of two or more variants of a particular DNA sequence ¹ .	تعدد الأشكال الوراثية ^٢
Allelic heterogeneity	The phenomenon in which different mutations at the same locus cause a similar phenotype. These allelic variations can arise as a result of natural selection processes due to exogenous mutagens, genetic drift, or genetic migration ^{3,4} .	التغايرية الأليلية ^٣
Epigenetics	Epigenetics is the study of mitotically or meiotically heritable changes in gene expression that occur without directly altering the DNA sequence. These are caused by external or environmental factors and result in cellular and physiological phenotypic trait variations. DNA methylation, histone modifications and microRNAs are major epigenetic variations in humans that are currently being investigated for asthma etiology and natural history ⁵ .	علم التخلق ^٤

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