

Patient FAQs

How is the allergy test performed, and is it painful?

The testing is not painful. A multiple headed percutaneous test device gently pricks the skin's surface. After the test is performed, it takes about 15 minutes to develop. A positive test will appear as a raised, red bump on the skin, similar to a mosquito bite.

How long does the allergy testing take?

The testing takes approximately 30 minutes – 15 minutes to administer and 15 minutes to register the results – so you don't have to wait long to learn the possible cause of your allergies.

Who can be tested?

Adults and children over the age of two years can be tested for allergies. This is especially helpful for patients who suffer with allergic asthma, allergic pneumonitis, conjunctivitis (pink eye), undiagnosed cough, atopic dermatitis (skin irritation), insect allergy, rhinitis, sinusitis, allergic urticaria (hives) and angioedema (similar to hives, but beneath the skin).

Which allergens will be tested for?

You will be tested for the most frequent geographically specific seasonal and perennial allergens in your area. We will test for dust mites, proteins from pet hair and dander, trees, grass and weed pollens, molds and cockroach allergens. UAS does not test or treat for food or stinging insect related allergies.

What is immunotherapy?

Allergen immunotherapy is a form of treatment aimed at decreasing your sensitivity to substances called allergens. Immunotherapy involves introducing increasing amounts of an allergen to a patient over several months.

How long will I have to be on immunotherapy?

The course of immunotherapy varies by individual. The initial full course of immunotherapy is one to three years, but symptom relief can and often occurs after one year of therapy. Completing three to five years of therapy has shown long-term benefits.

How soon will I see results from immunotherapy?

Relief from allergies varies by individual, however, relief can occur within the first few months of therapy.

What if I am currently taking antihistamines?

In order to achieve the most accurate test results, you should discontinue any antihistamines, over-the-counter or prescription, for at least three days or longer depending on the medication, prior to allergy testing. You may safely resume the use of antihistamines once you begin immunotherapy.

What are the benefits of allergy testing and immunotherapy?

One in five people suffer from symptomatic allergies. These symptoms can vary greatly from minor discomfort to severe disability. The cost of allergies can be significant when factoring in lost productivity and days off from work and school. Combined with expensive drugs that serve only to mask the symptoms, the average cost to patients can be upwards of \$2,000 per year*

Is immunotherapy effective in eliminating allergies?

Yes, immunotherapy is very effective in greatly decreasing or even eliminating the symptoms of allergies. Up to 85%* receive a complete cure or a noticeable reduction in allergy symptoms.

Is immunotherapy effective for children?

Yes, in addition to being 85% - 95% effective, allergen immunotherapy has been shown to prevent the development of asthma.

How long before I can expect to see my allergy symptoms improve on the immunotherapy treatment?

You may experience some symptom relief within the first year. Consult with your physician if you if you have not experienced symptom improvement within the first year of treatment.

How are specific allergens selected for immunotherapy?

Allergens are selected based on an assessment from your provider and also your reaction to specific seasonal and perennial allergens that you have been tested for.

How often will I see my provider to discuss my allergies?

You will have a visit with your physician to discuss the results of your allergy test and why IT is recommended. At three and six months of IT. Every six months from then on.

How can I benefit the most from my immunotherapy treatment?

Following your IT schedule and remaining compliant will help insure you get the most benefit from your immunotherapy program.

My allergy symptoms are only in the spring and summer. Can I receive my immunotherapy treatment just at that time?

Limiting your immunotherapy to just the spring and summer does not give your immune system time to adapt to allergens which cause you to have symptoms. Immunotherapy injections are required year-round to experience the long term benefits.

Which allergens will I be tested for?

You will be tested for the most frequent geographically specific seasonal and perennial allergens in your area. You will be tested for dust mites, proteins from pet hair and dander, trees, grass and weed pollens, molds and cockroach allergens. UAS does not test or treat for food or stinging insect related allergies.