

CADTH Reference List

Injectable Immunotherapy for Allergy

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Key Message

Four evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding subcutaneous allergen immunotherapy for patients of any age.

Research Question

What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding allergen immunotherapy?

Methods

Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the international HTA database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine's MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were allergy or allergens and immunotherapy. CADTH-developed search filters were applied to limit retrieval to guidelines. Comments, newspaper articles, editorials, and letters were excluded. Where possible, retrieval was limited to the human population. The search was also limited to English-language documents published between January 1, 2016 and August 25, 2021. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in Table 1. Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. Open access full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when abstracts were not available.

Results

Four evidence-based guidelines were identified regarding subcutaneous allergen immunotherapy for patients of any age.¹⁻⁴

Additional references of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in Appendix 1.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description
Population	Patients (of any age) requiring allergen immunotherapy
Intervention	Allergen immunotherapy (e.g., subcutaneous, injectable form)
Comparator	Not applicable
Outcomes	Recommendations regarding the use of allergen immunotherapy
Study designs	Evidence-based guidelines

References

Guidelines and Recommendations

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3. National Asthma Education and Prevention Program (NAEPP) Coordinating Committee Expert Panel Working Group. 2020 focused updates to the asthma management guidelines. Bethesda (MD): U.S. National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI); 2020. <https://www.nhlbi.nih.gov/sites/default/files/publications/AsthmaManagementGuidelinesReport-2-4-21.pdf> See: *Question 6.1, Recommendation 17 (page 79)*
4. Agache I, Lau S, Akdis CA, et al. EAACI Guidelines on Allergen Immunotherapy: House dust mite-driven allergic asthma. *Allergy*. 2019 05;74(5):855-873. [PubMed](#)

Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Previous CADTH Reports

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Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses

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Guidelines and Recommendations

Not Specific to Subcutaneous Allergen Immunotherapy

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Unclear Methodology

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Additional References

Clinical Practice Guidelines

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