

Modelling the conversion between specific IgE test platforms for nut allergens in children and adolescents

Jennifer Hoang¹, Alper Celik¹, Christian Lupinek², Rudolf Valenta², Lucy Duan³, Ruixue Dai¹, May Brydges¹, Aimée Dubeau¹, Claire Lépine¹, Samantha Wong³, Mara Alexanian-Farr³, Ahuva Magder³, Padmaja Subbarao³, Julia Upton³, Klara Schmidthaler², Zsolt Szepefalusi², Arun Ramani³, and Thomas Eiwegger³

¹Hospital for Sick Children Research Institute

²Medical University of Vienna

³Hospital for Sick Children

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Abstract

Background: Multiplex tests allow for measurement of allergen-specific IgE responses to multiple allergen extracts and components and have several advantages for large cohort studies. Due to significant methodological differences, test systems are difficult to integrate in meta-analyses/systematic reviews since there is a lack of datasets with direct comparison. We aimed to create models for statistical integration of allergen-specific IgE to peanut/tree nut allergens from three IgE-test platforms. **Methods:** Plasma from Canadian and Austrian children with peanut/tree nut sensitization and a cohort of sensitized, high-risk, pre-school asthmatics (total n=166) were measured with three R&D multiplex IgE test platforms: Allergy Explorer, ALEX (Macro Array Dx), MeDALL-chip (Mechanisms of Development of Allergy) (Thermo Fisher), and EUROLINE (EUROIM-MUN). Skin prick test (n=51) and ImmunoCAP (n=62) results for extracts were available in a subset. Regression models (Multivariate Adaptive Regression Splines, local polynomial regression) were applied if >30% of samples were positive to the allergen. Intra-test correlations between PR-10 and nsLTP allergens were assessed. **Results:** Using two regression methods, we demonstrated the ability to model allergen-specific relationships with acceptable measures of fit ($r^2=94-56\%$) for peanut and tree nut sIgE testing at the extract and component-level, in order from highest to lowest: Ara h 2, Ara h 6, Jug r 1, Ana o 3, Ara h 1, Jug r 2, Cor a 9. **Conclusion:** Our models support the notion that conversion is reasonably possible between sIgE multiplex platforms for allergen extracts and components and may provide options to aggregate data for future meta-analysis.

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