

MEDICATIONS which INTERFERE with ALLERGY SKIN TESTS

Certain over-the counter and prescription medications contain ingredients which affect allergy skin tests. Check labels of all medications you are using (including eye drops and nasal sprays) to determine whether your medication contains any ingredient listed below. For questions regarding ingredients contact your pharmacist. The medications listed must be held for at least the amount of time indicated prior to allergy skin tests.

The following **EYEDROPS** must be held at least **7 days prior to tests**:

Pataday, Patanol, Optivar, Zaditor, Alaway, Elestat, olopatadine, azelastine, ketotifen, epinastine

Pheniramine (e.g. Visine Allergy Eye drops) must be held for **≥ 48 hours prior to tests**

The following **NASAL SPRAYS** must be held for **≥ 7 days** prior to tests:

Astelín, Astepro, azelastine, Patanase, olopatidine

| <u>ORAL MEDICATIONS</u> | Minimum time to be held prior to allergy skin tests |
|---|---|
| Benadryl, diphenhydramine (allergy medications and nonprescription sleep aids) | 48 hours |
| Doxylamine, pyrilamine, pheniramine (in allergy, cold and sinus preparations) | 48 hours |
| Phenergan, promethazine (in prescription cough syrups and anti-nausea) | 48 hours |
| Periactin, cyproheptadine (appetite stimulant and other uses) | 48 hours |
| Meclizine, dimenhydrinate, Antivert, Bonine, Dramamine (motion sickness) | 48 hours |
| Ranitidine, famotidine, nizatidine (indigestion, heartburn medications) | 48 hours |
| Chlor-Trimeton, chlorpheniramine (in allergy, cold, and sinus preparations) | 5 days |
| Tussionex cough syrup (contains chlorpheniramine) | 5 days |
| Zyrtec, Xyzal, Atarax, Vistaril, cetirizine, levocetirizine, hydroxyzine (allergy & itch) | 5 days |
| loratidine (in nonprescription allergy medications including Claritin & Alavert) | 7 days |
| Fexofenadine, Allegra, Clarinex, desloratidine, brompheniramine, Brovex, Lodrane | 7 days |
| Remeron, mirtazapine (treatment of pain, depression, appetite stimulant) | 7 days |
| Tricyclics (headache, neuralgia, other chronically painful conditions; doxepin also used for itch): | |
| Amitriptyline, Elavil, imipramine, Tofranil | 7 days |
| Doxepin, Sinequan, Pamelor, nortriptyline | 10 days |

Psychotropic --**Zyprexa, chlorpromazine, Thorazine, perphenazine, Clozaril, clozapine** may affect allergy tests. These medications should not be modified except by instruction of the prescribing physician. Please notify the office in advance of your appointment if you are taking these medications.

If you are taking medication with antihistamine effects which cannot be stopped because of the severity of your condition or any other reason, continue taking the medication and let the office know in advance of your initial visit. In most cases, alternative medications which will not affect skin tests can be provided at the time of your initial clinic visit with skin testing postponed for a subsequent appointment.

Medications indicated below **do not affect allergy skin tests and MAY BE CONTINUED**

Allergy medications--

pseudoephedrine, phenylephrine decongestants

Singulair

prednisone, prednisolone, methylprednisolone, Medrol

Lotemax eyedrops

fluticasone, Flonase, Veramyst, Nasonex, Nasocort Aq., Rhinocort, Omnaris nasal sprays

Mucinex, guaifenesin

All asthma inhalers

dextromethorphan cough medications (e.g. Delsym)

Prescription stomach acid reducers (Protonix, Prevacid, Nexium, Aciphex)
omeprazole, Prilosec

Other medications without effect on allergy skin testing include:

antibiotics, high blood pressure, arthritis, cholesterol, diabetes, cardiac, anticonvulsant, thyroid medications, most insomnia, anxiety, depression medications including Ambien, Lunesta, Xanax, Ativan, Valium, Prozac, Effexor, Zoloft, bupropion, Wellbutrin, fluoxetine, sertraline, Celexa, Lexapro, and eye drops used for glaucoma

If you have any questions about the possible effect of other medications you might be taking, do not hesitate to contact the office.