

## **OCCUPATIONAL ASTHMA DUE TO FOOD ALLERGY IN A MADAGASCAN COOK**

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Food allergy has been described to cause gastrointestinal complaints, atopic dermatitis, and bronchial asthma. To date food induced bronchial asthma has not been reported as occupational disease. A Madagascan cook living in Germany since 19 years presented with episodes of diarrhoea and bronchial asthma minutes after tasting dishes containing cow milk or wheat flour in the restaurant kitchen. Out of occupation his nutrition was mainly based on the traditional Madagascan diet. In Madagascar the only grains included in traditional diet are maize and rice, no animal milk or -products are consumed. After oral challenge test with cow milk the patient complained about abdominal cramps and rhinoconjunctivitis. The FEV1 decreased in >20% and the sRt raised to 2,5 kPa\*s (>100% increase). He had wheezing and felt dizzy. After bronchospasmolysis and oral prednisolone symptoms recovered. Blood count showed eosinophilia, total IgE- was 5000 kU/l. Specific IgE for cow milk, wheat and rye were elevated. As cook the patient had had to taste milk containing dishes about 200 times per working day. We concluded that in his special situation the food allergy and asthma had been caused by his occupation.