

ALLERGEN COMPONENT TESTING FOR FOOD ALLERGY: READY FOR PRIME TIME?

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Accurate diagnosis of atopic allergy is important to select targets for immunotherapy, avoid serious allergic reactions and predicts and understand cross-reactivity among allergens. Skin prick testing and serum specific IgE levels are sensitive tests however both are based on allergen extracts. Advances in the identification of clinically-relevant allergens and the development of recombinant proteins allow for assessment IgE binding to individual epitopes. Such tests are known as component-resolved diagnosis (CRD). Increased accuracy of CRD is achieved by assessing IgE binding to separate antigenic epitopes. CRD may also provide additional prognostic information regarding the severity or persistence of allergies. CRD is available for a large panel of different allergens (food, inhalant, venoms) - as protein microarrays or immunoblot tests. CRD have the potential to provide a more accurate diagnosis of allergic reactions to a variety of food types including milk, eggs, peanut and various fruits. Clinical cases and recommendations for CRD will be presented.