Food Allergies

An adverse food reaction consists of any abnormal reaction following the ingestion of a food. Such reactions might be caused by food intolerance, known as a physiological response or by food allergy, known as an immunological response. There are multiple causes for food intolerance, not the least of which is toxic substances in the food. Allergies on the other hand can be caused either by IgE or non-IgE mediated mechanisms.\(^1\) Our experience at Spectrum Labs since 1985 indicates an extremely high percentage of IgE mediated mechanism as evidenced by follow up to food altered diets based on results of the SPOT Test.

In theory food allergies should not be a problem due to the existence of the gastrointestinal tract. The GI tract provides a surface for the absorption of ingested food and the discharge of wastes. At the same time it provides a barrier to the outside environment.\(^2\) Despite the complex barrier system, studies in human medicine have shown that about 2% of ingested food antigens are absorbed and transported throughout the body as active antigens.\(^3\) Sensitization to food allergens may occur in one of two forms, either in the gastrointestinal tract following ingestion of food (class I) or as a reaction to an inhalant allergen that cross reacts with a specific food (class II).\(^4\) An IgE-mediated food reaction will occur when ingested food allergens that have passed through the gastrointestinal tract barrier bind with those food specific antigens bound to the surface of mast cells or basophils. This binding and subsequent cross linking of antigens by allergens causes the rupture of the mast cells or basophils and the release of mediators such as histamine, bradykinin, etc.

There are two main avenues for the identification of food allergens. The first is by employing elimination diets, and the second, an IgE test such as the SPOT Test food panel from Spectrum Labs. The problem with elimination diets is that they require the correct identification of the offending foods, a diet be followed completely devoid of any traces of that/those allergens, and finally that no other factors provide similar symptoms during the period of the trial such as to blur the results. These factors make elimination diets more cumbersome and often less reliable, not to mention potentially costly and time consuming. Much has appeared in the literature over the years about the pros and cons of IgE testing for foods. The
Spectrum has recently introduced 2 new informational DVDs to our Clinics and their clients. Please contact Customer Service and request your free copy (limit three) and see for yourself what sets Spectrum Labs apart from the competition.

Toll-Free 800-553-1391
WE REALLY WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

Our last newsletter contained a misprint of our fax number, preventing us from receiving your much needed feedback. Spectrum Labs continues to strive for excellence in customer service and appreciates your comments, concerns, and suggestions so we may better serve you. Please take a moment to fill out the following survey and fax it to **480-898-0611**.

**Customer Service:** When calling Customer Service, please rate the quality of the service you received.

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**Marketing Support:** Please rate the quality of the service you received from our Marketing Department.

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Please rate your overall experience with Spectrum Labs.

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Name and Title (optional): ____________________________

Clinic: ____________________________________________

If you would like to be contacted regarding this survey, please indicate the preferred method.

Email ___________ Telephone ___________ Fax ___________

Please list contact address/phone or fax #: ________________________________

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NEED A SPEAKER?

LET SPECTRUM LABS PROVIDE A SPEAKER FOR YOUR NEXT MEETING. OUR PRESENTATIONS CAN BE TAILORED TO YOUR NEEDS IN TERMS OF LENGTH AND STYLE (FORMAL OR CASUAL). A TYPICAL PRESENTATION LASTS BETWEEN 1-2 HOURS. THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THE PRESENTATION, AS LONG AS THERE ARE A MINIMUM NUMBER OF 25 VETERINARIANS PRESENT. THE PRESENTATION PROVIDES A GENERAL OVERVIEW ON THE SUBJECT:

“IMMUNOLOGY, TESTING, AND TREATMENT OF YOUR ALLERGIC PATIENTS”

FOR MORE INFORMATION, OR TO SCHEDULE A SPEAKER PLEASE CALL TODAY AND SPEAK WITH A SEMINAR COORDINATOR AT: **(800) 553-1391**

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Q: “My client’s treatment set arrived at room temperature. Can I still use it?”

A: Treatment and refill sets are shipped at room temperature and should be refrigerated upon arrival. Once punctured, the vials must be refrigerated to prevent microbial growth. Should the vials remain unrefrigerated, verify their stability by placing them back in the refrigerator for 24 hours. Then, mix gently to verify that the contents have not become cloudy and there are no particulates floating in the solution.

Q: “How long is the injection protocol for an initial treatment and a refill?”

A: Initial treatment lasts for a total of 9 months. Each maintenance/refill vial commonly lasts between 6 and 8 months. Due to individual patient response, time frames will vary.

Q: “How long after beginning hypo sensitization treatment should I begin to see results?”

A: While each case is unique, reduction in symptoms should occur on average in 4 to 6 months. Many cases begin showing improvement much earlier while others may require 9 months or more to respond.
Spectrum Labs, Inc. has been performing human allergy testing and manufacture of treatment sets through our sister affiliate, Spectrum Health Care, Inc. for the last several years. We are pleased to announce that we are making these services available to all of our veterinary division clients* at a professional courtesy discount. You will now be able to provide our world famous SPOT Test to your office staff and members of their families at the discounted price of $115.00. The human SPOT Test includes 45 inhalant allergens consisting of local grasses, weeds, trees, molds and animal dander as well as 46 food allergens consisting of meats/poultry, dairy, seafood, grains, fruits, vegetables and spices.

Please call us at (800)553-1391 and ask us to fax you a copy of the special order form, blood draw and shipping instructions we’ve designed for this courtesy program. As usual, results will be available and faxed to your office within 48 hours after we receive the patient serum. Please feel free to take advantage of this special program that only Spectrum Labs is able to provide to the veterinary industry.

*Due to government regulations, this offer is only available to U.S. residents.