

Food Allergy and Related Diseases

In Allergology International (AI) Vol.58 No.4 we have 5 Review Articles and 13 Original Articles. AI is publishing theme issues that include reviews in important fields of current research activity written by eminent experts. The theme of this issue is " Food Allergy and Related Diseases".

To eat it or not to eat it

As shown in the five review articles in this issue of AI, food allergies affect 8% of young children and 2% of adults in westernized countries, and their prevalence continues to rise like other allergic diseases. Unlike other types of allergies, however, there is no effective therapy for controlling symptoms of food allergies such as inhaled corticosteroids for asthma. The only proven therapy is food elimination. Therefore, based on the assumption that food elimination should be effective for preventing the development of food allergy in perinatal period, most of doctors and healthcare workers have so far recommended the parents to avoid possible allergenic food such as egg and milk. However, recent epidemiological studies having higher evidence levels all revealed that food avoidance during perinatal or infantile period is not effective, or even increases the prevalence rate in some studies. Basic studies also showed that gastrointestinal tract is prone to develop regulatory T cells, while inflammatory tissues such as atopic skin tend to induce Th2 cell development as the route of food allergen incorporation. Thus, clinical trials of oral immunotherapy for active food allergies are now performed in major professional hospitals in Japan. It might be employed for the prevention of food allergies in high risk group of atopic infants in the future.

In the first review article, Cianferoni and Spergel comprehensively summarize the recent concept regarding food allergies all over the world. Ito and Urisu introduce the standard method for diagnosing food allergies in children from "Japanese Pediatric Guideline for Oral Food Challenge". Ebisawa describes management of food allergy in Japan by introducing "Food Allergy Management Guideline 2008" and "Guidelines for the Treatment of Allergic Diseases in Schools". As a related topic, oral allergy syndrome that is defined as symptoms of IgE-mediated reactions localized in the oral mucosa and is caused by labile food allergens cross-reacting with pollen allergens is described by Kondo and Urisu. Also, importance of omega-5 gliadin as a causative allergen for wheat-dependent exercise-induced anaphylaxis is discussed by Morita et al.

International topics

This issue of AI includes a variety of topics from all over the world. Tulic et al. have reported from Australia and the United States that administration of immunostimulatory DNA-linked ragweed allergen (AIC) is effective for hay fever symptoms by inducing ragweed-specific Th1 cells instead of Th2 cells that are developed by the unlinked ragweed allergen. Interestingly, unlike ordinary immunotherapy, regulatory T cell development was not seen. Alsamara et al. have reported the positive correlation of asthma and allergic rhinitis in the Iraqi population. Tiwari et al. have reported from New Zealand about cross reactivity between rye and grass pollen allergens.

You will surely enjoy this issue of AI and can update your knowledge about food allergy and general Allergology.

Notes from Instruction for Authors

Please note some changes in Instruction for Authors. For example, according to the Declaration of Helsinki in Seoul 2008, we have revised some ethical issues. Clinical trials such as pharmacological interventions now should be preregistered to a public registry approved by WHO. Alternatively, such as for the previously designed studies, the authors should state why they did not preregister. Also, the authors who are not speaking native English are now requested to check and improve the manuscripts by language editing services before submission.

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Allergology International (AI) is the official journal of the Japanese Society of Allergology (JSA). It provides an international forum of basic and clinical research in allergology and immunology, especially aiming at advance excellence in research activities for allergology in Asia.

AI publishes original works in the fields of allergy, asthma, immunopathology, immunogenetics, immunopharmacology, mucosal immunity and immunology of infectious and connective tissue diseases. In addition to original papers, it features reviews, case reports, letters and hypothesis. Submissions from all over the world are welcome.

AI editorial board guarantees a fair review process and rapid publication of significant and novel works. The board members make effort to boost the journal up to a world-class level. From the year 2006, articles published in AI are cited in Medline (PubMed) database in NCBI, National Institute of Health, U.S.A.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?db>

[PubMed](#)). Since then, the citation number is increased more than double according to CImago® database (<http://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php>). Citation number per published documents soon will be more than one.