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**Abstracts / Abstraites**

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O1 021

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#### COW'S MILK PROTEIN ALLERGY: CLINICAL FEATURES.

Among adverse reactions- (AR) to cow's milk protein (CMP), only IgE-mediated allergy is immunologically defined. We analyze the clinical features of 142 children with positive challenge and high IgE antibody (IgEAb) titres to CMP (prick-test and/or RAST).

Results: Mean age onset 2.5 months. 119 cases with acute cutaneous findings (erythema, urticaria, angioedema), 37 of them with acute digestive signs (vomiting, diarrhoea) and two with CMP-induced asthma or atopic dermatitis. The other 23 had only acute (n=13) or chronic (enteropathy, n=10) digestive signs; in most of these the IgEAb increase was slight and transient, and only two evidenced extradiigestive symptoms at any time.

Conclusion: CMP allergy has an early onset, with acute skin signs in direct correlation to intake. Immediate-type allergy does not look important in isolated digestive forms of AR to CMP.

O1 022

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#### ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN INFANTS: POSSIBLE ROLE OF HOUSE DUST MITES.

Atopic dermatitis in the infant is frequently caused by food allergens, like cow's milk (CM) proteins. However some patients fail to improve under a CM free diet (CMFD). The role of house dust mites (HDM) has been suspected since many years. Sixty four CM fed infants (36 boys and 28 girls) with a serious eczema beginning before the age of 3 months, were all treated by a hypoallergenic formula (NanHA<sup>®</sup>) and classed according to their clinical response to the diet. Immunologic determinations were performed; (total IgE, specific IgE, IgG against CM, soyaproteins and HDM). 31 infants were dramatically improved by the diet: their total IgE, specific IgG against betalactoglobulin (major CM antigen) and soya protein were significantly higher than those of the 33 others. The first group displayed increased frequency of anti CM IgE (Rast;  $p < 10^{-2}$ ) and mean levels of anti betalactoglobulin IgG ( $p < 10^{-4}$ ). The second group (n=33) exhibited increased levels of anti HDM IgG ( $p < 10^{-3}$ ) suggesting the involvement of the latter antigen in their disease. This study confirms again the predictive value of anti BLG IgG for the successful exclusion of cow's milk intact proteins.

O1 023

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#### CONJUNCTIVAL MUCOSA AS A MODEL FOR STUDYING LOCAL IgE RESPONSE TO ALLERGEN.

Detection of specific IgE on conjunctival mucosa, similarly to nose (Clin Exp Allergy 1989,19), has been performed by incubation of allergen-coupled paper substrate, in lower conjunctival fornix, followed by RAST procedure. 20 children with allergic conjunctivitis to Grass and 10 non atopics were studied to verify accuracy of method and possibility to investigate the correlation with allergen provocation. Negative results were obtained in all ten controls. In patients, conjunctival IgE to Grass showed mean values of  $4.6 \pm 5.9$  PHU in right eye and  $3.3 \pm 4.3$  in left (VC:  $37 \pm 21\%$ ).

A lower variation coefficient than right vs left was found between two successive determinations on the same side ( $28 \pm 21\%$ ). Mucosal IgE to Grass, determined far from seasonal exposure, before OPT gave positive results in 18 cases, with a significant difference ( $P < 0.02$ ) with tear IgE, positive only in 8. Also after OPT conjunctival IgE were significantly higher than tears, but increased levels of tear IgE, compared to before OPT-values, were shown.

Our data indicate that higher sensitivity of direct conjunctival incubation method is mainly due to cell-bound IgE detection, unlike tears.

O1 024

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#### A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SKIN TEST REACTIVITIES IN ASTHMATIC CHILDREN IN SAUDI ARABIA

120 asthmatic children each from two regions in Saudi Arabia were included in this comparative study. Patients were examined and skin tested with a standard set of 35 inhalant allergens. 71 (59.2%) patients from Central region showed positive skin reactions to one or multiple allergens while 87 (72.5%) reacted in the Western region. The allergen pattern of reactions revealed interesting variations. House dust mite (56.3%) and fungal allergens (31.3%) gave frequent positive reactions in Western region while cat fur (71.8%) was most frequent in Central Region. Variations in skin reactivities were also noted with pollen, cockroach and other antigens tested.

The study indicates presence of a different allergens profile in the two regions influenced by climatic and environmental differences and appeared to have its impact on the sensitization of susceptible children and onset of their allergic symptoms.