

Prevalence of allergen-specific antibody in allergic patients

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The current study was designed to determine the positive rates of specific allergens using Korean inhalant panel of MAST-CLA with thirty-five specific allergens among allergic patients.

During Oct 1998-July 2000, one hundred ninety-nine allergic patients were enrolled for the study. Allergic rhinitis accounted for 80.4%. Most frequent allergic symptoms were sneezing (50.3%), rhinorrhea (49.3%), and nasal stiffness (41.2%), in order. Among patients, 46.3% showed at least one specific allergen in 35 allergens and 63.8% had significantly elevated total IgE levels. The most three prevalent allergens were *Dermatophagoides farinae* (40.2%), *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* (39.2%), and house dust (25.6%), in order, accounting for 79.2% of 106 positives with specific-allergens. Age and sex were not related to prevalence of specific-allergens. Sneezing and nasal stiffness were significant symptoms for positive of specific-allergens ($P < 0.05$).

In conclusion, our data suggested that MAST-CLA allergen-specific IgE assay is a useful measure for identification of causative allergens in allergic patients, showing that mite and house dust are the major cause of allergens in Korea. It is also recommended that more specific allergens should be determined and replaced/added to Korean panel of MAST-CLA.

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