

Medications That Interfere With Allergy Testing

Many common medications, especially antihistamines, interfere with allergy skin tests. Antihistamines are in many over-the-counter (OTC) medications for allergies, colds and sinus problems. Please carefully read the following handout and ensure that you discontinue any medications that may interfere with testing.

Do not stop antihistamines if you are experiencing active skin symptoms such as hives (urticaria) or swelling (angioedema), or if you were put on antihistamines for a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis). Please contact our office at 513-861-0222 if you have any questions regarding your medications.

H1 Antihistamines (Oral) – Hold for 7 full days before visit

Allegra (Fexofenadine)	Claritin, Alavert (Loratadine)	Zyrtec (Cetirizine)
Xyzal (Levocetirizine)	Clarinx (Desloratadine)	Benadryl (Diphenhydramine)***
Reglan (Metoclopramide)	Chlor-Trimeton (Chlorpheniramine)	Antivert (Meclizine)
Phenergan (Promethazine)	Actifed, Dimetapp (Brompheniramine)	Dramamine (Dimenhydrinate)
Unisom (Doxylamine)	Vistaril, Atarax (Hydroxyzine)	Compazine (Prochlorperazine)
Less common: Tavist/Antihist (Clemastine), Dexchlorphenamine (Polaramine), Carbinoxamine		

Check OTC medications used for cold/sinus/flu or as a sleep aid for the presence of diphenhydramine

H1 Antihistamines (Nasal Sprays/Eye Drops) – Hold for 7 full days before visit

Astepro (Azelastine)	Dymista (Fluticasone-Azelastine)	Patanase/Pataday/Pazeo (Olopatadine)
Alaway, Zaditor (Ketotifen)	Opcon A, Naphcon A (Pheniramine)	Bepreve (Bepotastine)

H2 Blocking Medications – Hold for 48 hours before visit

Pepcid/Zantac (Famotidine)	Tagamet (Cimetidine)	
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Some other medications used to treat non-allergic conditions may interfere with skin testing, but should not be discontinued unless instructed by a physician. Please call our office if you are taking any of the following:

Anafranil (Clomipramine)	Asendin (Amoxapine)	Compazine (Prochlorperazine)
Elavil, Endep, Triavil, Limbitrol (Amitriptyline)	Norpramin (Desipramine)	Pamelor (Nortriptyline)
Phenergan (Promethazine)	Seroquel (Quetiapine)	Sinequan, Adapin (Doxepin)
Surmontil (Trimipramine)	Tofranil (Imipramine)	

The following medications are commonly used but **DO NOT INTERFERE** with allergy testing and **CAN BE CONTINUED** prior to the testing appointment:

- Asthma inhalers and oral medications to treat asthma such as montelukast (Singulair)
- Nasal steroid sprays such as Flonase (Fluticasone), Nasacort (Triamcinolone), Rhinocort (Budesonide), Omnaris (Ciclesonide), Nasonex (Mometasone), QNASL or Xhance.
- Oral steroids such as prednisone or Medrol, unless taking more than 20 mg prednisone or 16 mg Medrol per day for >4 weeks. If chronically taking doses above stated limit, please contact our office.