

Medications that interfere with allergy skin testing

Antihistamines or medications with anti-histamine properties interfere with allergy skin testing. Allergy skin testing allows us to diagnose environmental, food, bee-sting or medication allergies by observing if there are signs of a histamine release. Histamine, when released from the allergy cells in the skin known as Mast cells, will cause a “wheal and flare” reaction. This reaction is a small hive, which is raised, red and itchy. Histamine causes this reaction by binding to histamine receptors in the skin. If these histamine receptors are “blocked” by a medication, then even if there is a release of histamine by the Mast cells, there will not be the formation of the “wheal and flare”, and therefore the allergy skin test will falsely be interpreted as negative.

There are medications that are known as “anti-histamines” and there are also medications indicated for other conditions that have “anti-histamine properties”. **Any medication with anti-histamine properties can interfere with allergy skin testing.** If you are unable to discontinue these medications, laboratory tests (Immunocap tests) will be necessary to accurately diagnose an individual’s allergies, given the laboratory tests are not interfered or affected by anti-histamines or medications with anti-histamine properties.

The following is a list of medications one needs to avoid for the defined periods of time in order to allow us to perform accurate allergy skin testing. If you are currently taking any medications not listed below, and question whether they are okay for allergy testing, please contact Weiss Medical prior to your appointment.

Medications to avoid 3 days prior to allergy skin testing

Oral Antihistamines

Alavert (Loratadine)
Allegra (fexofenadine)
Atarax (hydroxyzine)
Azatidine
Benadryl (diphenhydramine)
Brompheniramine (Dimetane)
Cabinoxamine (Rondec)
Cetirizine (Zyrtec)
Chlorpheniramine (Chlortrimeton)
Claritin (loratadine)
Clarinex (Desloratadine)
Clemastine (Tavist)
Cyproheptadine (Periactin)
Deconamine
Dimenhydrinate (Dramamine)
Dimetane (brompheniramine)
Diphenhydramine (Benadryl)
Diphenylpyraline (Hispril)
Doxylamine (Bendectin, Nyquil)
Drixoral
Fexofenadine (Allegra)
Hydroxyzine (Atarax, Vistaril)

Loratadine (Claritin, Alavert)
Levocetirizine (Xyzal)
Methdilazine HCL (Tacaryl)
Palgic (carbinoxamine)
Phenindamine (Nolamine, Nolahist)
Pheniramine (Polyhistine D)
Poly-Histine-D
Pyrilamine (Kronohist, Rynatan)
Rynatan
Tavist (clemastine)
Tripolidine (Actifed)
Vistaril (hydroxyzine)
Xyzal (levocetirizine)
Zyrtec (cetirizine)

Miscellaneous Medications with anti-histamine properties

Phenergan (Promethazine)

Medications to avoid 2 days prior to allergy skin testing

Nasal sprays

Astelin (azelastine)
Astepro
Patanase (olopatadine)
Dymista (azelastine/fluticasone)

Eye drops

Bepreve (Bepotastine)
Elestat (Epinastine)
Emadine (emedastine)
Lastacaft (Alcaftadine)
Livostin (Levocabastine)
Naphcon-A (naphazoline/pheniramine)
Optivar (Azelastine)
Patanol (olopatadine 1%)
Pataday (olopatadine 2%)
Pazeo (olopatadine 7%)
Visine-A (Pheniramine/Naphazoline)
Zaditor (ketotifen)

Stomach Acid Reducers

Axid (nizatidine)
Pepcid (famotidine)
Tagamet (cimetidine)
Zantac (ranitidine)

Medications to avoid 7 days prior to allergy skin testing

Tricyclic antidepressants

Imipramine (Tofranil)

Desipramine (Norpramin)

Maprotiline (Deprilept, Ludiomil, Psymion)

Amitriptyline (Elavil)

Nortriptyline (Pamelor)

Trimipramine (Surmontil)

Protriptyline (Vivactil)

Clomipramine (Anafranil)

Doxepin (Sinequan)

Amoxapine

Benzodiazepines

Clonazepam (Klonopin)

Diazepam (Valium, Diastat)

Lorazepam (Ativan)

Midazolam