

PENICILLIN Skin Testing and Challenge

Penicillins tend to be safe, inexpensive, well tolerated and targeted antibiotics for some serious infections
The diagnosis of penicillin allergy excludes patients from the entire class of penicillin drugs
Many people with a penicillin allergy history - given enough time - can outgrow the allergy
And some patients are avoiding penicillin even though the initial history is suspect
Even if the initial reaction was mild, the worry is that the next exposure could cause severe anaphylaxis
Physicians are now urging their patients to be tested to see if outgrown

This procedure takes 3 hours including skin testing and a first dose challenge in a monitored setting
If the skin tests are negative the first dose will then be administered cautiously in the office for safety
The plan would be then to take the medicine for a few days for a delayed reaction test

Make an appointment for Penicillin skin testing and Challenge

Fill your penicillin prescription and bring it with you: "To be given in office setting monitored by physician"

Bring reading material you may be in the office for about 3 hours

If there is no reaction in the office with the first dose

- at dinner take the second dose - 2 teaspoons (10 ml)
- then take 2 teaspoons (10 ml) twice a day - breakfast and dinner - for 2 more days - total 3 days

If you do have a delayed reaction in the next few days - rash, itching or hives

- *you are still penicillin-allergic*
- delayed reactions can still occur, although they tend to be less severe if treated quickly
- take Benadryl and call the office immediately

If you do not have a delayed reaction in the next few days:

You are no longer penicillin-allergic

You are at no greater risk than average for subsequently re-developing penicillin allergy

We will inform your primary physician

You will contact your pharmacy to update their records

As always, call with any questions