Allergy testing at Medlab Laboratory:
NEW ALLERGY PANELS AVAILABLE

Medlab laboratory uses ImmunoCAP technology for the measurement of IgE antibodies against specific food, pollen, insect and medication allergens. Measurement of “RASTs”, now correctly termed serum specific IgE (ssIgE), assists in the diagnosis of IgE mediated allergy. ImmunoCAP is considered to be the gold standard for ssIgE testing. We have designed allergen profiles to assist in the diagnosis of allergic disorders for your patients.

Who to test?
Children and adults with:

- Immediate reactions to food, insect venom or penicillin where an IgE mediated process is suspected (e.g. hives/ welts, angioedema, respiratory distress soon after allergen exposure)
- Allergic rhino-conjunctivitis or asthma, particularly those with frequent symptoms requiring ongoing medication and symptoms affecting the patient’s quality of life.
- Severe difficult to control eczema where an underlying IgE mediated process is suspected (e.g. severe eczema in a baby)

How the test works?
We measure IgE levels specific to the allergen(s) being requested. A quantitative result is supplied. A class system is also supplied, whereby higher classes score (e.g. 6) signifies a higher quantitative result. The level of the ssIgE in Ku/mL or the class score can not be used to determine the severity of the person’s allergy or predict the future severity of a reaction (e.g. class 6 score to peanut does not mean the patient is more likely to have anaphylaxis compared to someone with a class 4 score; a class 6 score to dust mite does not mean the patient has a more severe dust mite allergy compared to someone with a class 3 score).

Allergens available:
A range of allergens are available for testing. Specific allergen profiles have been constructed in situations where IgE food, insect, environmental and penicillin allergy is suspected.

What to write on the request form?

- Please write which panel you would like tested (e.g. standard, seafood, nut, etc) or alternatively write the abbreviation that corresponds to the particular RAST panel (for example, RAST P = penicillin panel; see page 2)
- If you write “RAST” only, then only the standard ssIgE panel will be performed (different panel for children vs. adults)
- If you write “food and inhalant/pollen” or “extended” RAST or RAST 1 and 2, the extended food and pollen panel will now be performed
- Specimen requirements: Gold SST 8.5ml tube (min 2ml)
- Panels can be done from a single tube
STANDARD PANELS

Standard allergen panel (RAST A)
(adult ≥ 18 years old)
• House dust mite
• Grass and weed mix: grasses (rye, bahia, bermuda) and weeds (English plantain, ragweed, goosefoot)
• Mould mix: Penicillium, Cladosporium, Aspergillus and Alternaria

Standard allergen panel (RAST C)
(child < 18 years old)
• House dust mite
• Grass and weed mix: grasses (rye, bahia, bermuda) and weeds (English plantain, ragweed, goosefoot)
• Food staple mix: egg white, cow milk, fish, wheat, peanut and soy

Seafood panel (RAST S)
• Cod, herring, mackerel and plaice
• Tuna
• Salmon
• Shrimp

EXTENDED PANELS

Extended pollen panel (RAST E)
• Grass mix: bermuda, rye, timothy, johnson and bahia grasses
• Tree pollen mix: olive pollen, willow, white pine, eucalyptus, wattle and melaleuca
• Weed mix: ragweed, mugwort, English plantain, goosefoot, saltwort
• Animal mix: cat, dog, horse and cow dander

* Extended food panel (RAST F)
• Peanut
• Egg
• Cow milk
• Soy
• Wheat
• Cod, Herring, Mackerel, Plaice
• Shrimp

Extended food and pollen panel (RAST AF)
• Food staple mix: egg white, cow milk, fish, wheat, peanut and soy
• House dust mite
• Grass mix: bermuda, rye, timothy, johnson and bahia grasses
• Animal mix: cat, dog, horse and cow dander

* Peanut Ara h profile (PEA)
• Peanut
• Ara h 1,2,3 and 8

COSTS?

Due to the costs of performing these tests and limited Medicare rebate, certain panels can only be bulked billed, whilst in other situations the patient will be privately billed (for out of pocket costs to the patient, please refer to table below)

Panels that are always privately billed
- Peanut and treenut panel (RAST N) ($40)
- Peanut
- Almond
- Cashew
- Hazelnut
- Walnut
- Macadamia
- Peanut and treenut panel (RAST N) ($120)
- Peanut
- Ara h 1,2,3 and 8
- Almond
- Cashew
- Hazelnut
- Walnut
- Macadamia

Panels that can be bulked billed (only one panel can be bulk billed)*
- Standard allergen panel (adult or child)
- Extended food and pollen panel
- Extended pollen panel
- Seafood panel
- Penicillin panel
- Insect venom panel

* If more than one of these items is requested, one panel will be bulked billed, and then any remaining of these panels will be privately billed at $25 a panel (e.g. if standard allergen panel, penicillin panel and seafood panel are all requested; then one panel is bulked billed, and the patient will be charged $50.00 ($25.00 X 2) for the remaining two panels).

If there are any questions regarding the interpretation of these panels, please call Medlab Laboratory and ask to speak to the Immunopathologist.