

MEDICATIONS WHICH INTERFERE WITH ALLERGY SKIN TESTS

Certain over-the counter and prescription medications contain ingredients which affect allergy skin tests. Check labels of all medications you are using (including eye drops and nasal sprays) to determine whether your medication contains any ingredient listed below. For questions regarding ingredients contact your pharmacist. The medications listed must be held for at least the amount of time indicated prior to allergy skin tests.

EYEDROPS

The following eyedrops must not be used at least **7 days prior to tests**:

Pataday, Patanol, Optivar, Zaditor, Alaway, Elestat, olopatadine, azelastine, ketotifen, epinastine

Pheniramine (e.g. Visine Allergy Eye drops) must be avoided for **at least 48 hours prior to tests**.

NASAL SPRAYS

The following nasal sprays must be avoided for **at least 7 days prior to tests**:

Astelin, Astepro, azelastine, Patanase, olopatidine

ORAL MEDICATIONS

	Minimum time to not use prior to allergy skin tests
Benadryl diphenhydramine (allergy medications and nonprescription sleep aids)	48 hours
doxylamine pyrillamine pheniramine (in allergy, cold and sinus preparations)	48 hours
Phenergan promethazine (in prescription cough syrups and anti-nausea)	48 hours
Periactin cyproheptadine (appetite stimulant and other uses)	48 hours
meclizine dimenhydrinate Antivert Bonine Dramamine (motion sickness)	48 hours
ranitidine famotidine nizatidine (indigestion, heartburn medications)	48 hours
Chlor-Trimeton chlorpheniramine (in allergy, cold, and sinus preparations)	5 days
Tussionex cough syrup (contains chlorpheniramine)	5 days
Zyrtec Xyzal Atarax Vistaril cetirizine levocetirizine hydroxyzine (allergy & itch)	5 days
loratidine (in nonprescription allergy medications including Claritin & Alavert)	7 days
fexofenadine Allegra Clarinex desloratidine brompheniramine Brovex, Lodrane	7 days
Remeron mirtazapine (treatment of pain, depression, appetite stimulant)	7 days
Tricyclics (headache, neuralgia, other chronically painful conditions; doxepin also used for itch)	
amitriptyline Elavil imipramine Tofranil	7 days
doxepin, Sinequan, Pamelor, nortriptyline	10 days

Psychotropic -- Zyprexa, chlorpromazine, Thorazine, perphenazine, Clozaril clozapine may affect allergy tests. These medications should not be modified except by instruction of the prescribing physician. Please notify the clinic in advance of your appointment if you are taking these medications.

If you are taking medication with antihistamine effects which cannot be stopped because of the severity of your condition or any other reason, continue taking the medication and let the clinic know in advance of your initial visit. In most cases, alternative medications which will not affect skin tests can be provided at the time of your initial clinic visit with skin-testing postponed for a subsequent appointment.

Medications indicated below do not affect allergy skin tests and MAY BE CONTINUED:

Allergy medications--

pseudoephedrine, phenylephrine decongestants

Singulair

prednisone, prednisolone, methylprednisolone, Medrol

Lotemax eyedrops

fluticasone, Flonase, Veramyst, Nasonex, Nasocort Aq., Rhinocort, Omnaris nasal sprays

Mucinex, guaifenesin

All asthma inhalers

dextromethorphan cough medications (e.g. Delsym)

Prescription stomach acid reducers (Protonix, Prevacid, Nexium, Aciphex)

omeprazole, Prilosec

Other medications without effect on allergy skin testing include antibiotics, high blood pressure, arthritis, cholesterol diabetes, cardiac, anticonvulsant, and thyroid medications, most insomnia, anxiety, depression medications including Ambien, Lunesta, Xanax, Ativan, Valium, Prozac, Effexor, Zoloft, bupropion, Wellbutrin, fluoxetine, sertraline, Celexa, Lexapro, and eye drops used for glaucoma

If you have any questions about the possible effect of other medications you might be taking, do not hesitate to contact our office.