

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 that 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.

The following **EYE DROPS** must be held at least **7 days prior to tests**:

Pataday Patanol Optivar Zaditor Alaway Bepreve Elestat olopatadine azelastine ketotifen

pheniramine (e.g. Visine Allergy Eye drops) must be held for **> 48 hours prior to tests**

The following **NASAL SPRAYS** must be held for **>7 days prior to tests**:

Astelin Astepro azelastine Dymista Patanase olopatidine

ORAL MEDICATIONS

Minimum time to be held prior to allergy skin tests:

Benadryl diphenhydramine (allergy medications and nonprescription sleep aids)	> 48 hours
doxylamine pyrilamine 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 Pepcid Zantac (indigestion, heartburn medications)	> 48 hours
Chlor-Trimeton chlorpheniramine (in allergy, cold, and sinus preparations)	> 5 days
Tussionex cough syrup, Tussicaps (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 (treatment of headache, neuralgia, and other chronic pain conditions; doxepin also used for itch)

amitriptyline Elavil imipramine Tofranil	> 7 days
doxepin Sinequan Pamelor nortriptyline	> 10 days

Psychotropic – **Zyprexa, chlorpromazine, Thorazine, perphenazine, Clozaril**, and **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 Sudafed phenylephrine decongestants

Singulair, montelukast

prednisone prednisolone methylprednisolone Medrol, Decadron, dexamethasone

Lotemax, Alrex, FML eye drops

fluticasone Flonase Veramyst Nasonex Nasocort AQ Rhinocort Omnaris Zetonna Qnasl nasal sprays

Mucinex guaifenesin

All asthma inhalers

dextromethorphan cough medications (e.g. Delsym)

Tessalon Perles (benzonatate)

Hycodan (hydrocodone)

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

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 effects of other medications you might be taking on allergy skin tests, do not hesitate to contact the clinic.