

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT IMMUNOTHERAPY TREATMENT FOR ALLERGIES

What is immunotherapy?

Immunotherapy is a form of treatment that decreases your sensitivity to allergens. You receive increasing amounts of the allergen(s) that cause your allergic response over a period of several months which helps your body see them as “normal”—reducing or eliminating the unpleasant allergic symptoms. The doses are administered via a simple injection.

How is the allergy test performed?

The allergy test is not painful. A small test device gently pricks or scrapes the surface of your skin. After the test is performed, it takes about 15 minutes for a response to develop. A positive test will appear as a raised, red bump on the skin, similar to a mosquito bite.

How long will I have to be on immunotherapy?

The course of treatment is different for each person. The initial course is one to three years; however, symptom relief can and often occurs after one year of therapy. The immunotherapy program we offer is seamless and convenient because it does not require a doctor’s visit for every injection.

Who can be tested?

At Associated Physicians Group, we will test people who are 14 years of age and older.

How soon will I see results?

Relief from allergies varies by individual; however, relief can occur within the first few months of therapy.

What kind of allergies do you test for?

We test for common indoor and outdoor allergens. You will be tested for the most frequent geographically specific seasonal and perennial allergens in your area. We will test for allergic response to dust mites, proteins from pet hair and dander, trees, grass and weed pollens, molds and cockroach allergens.

What are the benefits of immunotherapy?

When you factor in lost productivity and days missed from work and school, there is not just a personal cost but also a financial one. Without immunotherapy, the only option is expensive drugs that simply mask the symptoms. The average cost of medication is almost \$2,000 per year, per patient. Immunotherapy reduces or eliminates the allergic response, the expensive medications, and makes you feel better!