



ASTHMA & ALLERGY CENTER

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Oral Allergy Drops

Allergy Injections have been the mainstay of treatment of Allergic Asthma, Rhinitis, and Sinusitis. They induce immune tolerance to the specific antigens.

FDA recently approved sublingually administered tablets of Timothy grass and Ragweed antigens for treatment of inhalant allergies. The sublingual mucosa is rich in dendrocytes that can pick up and deliver the antigens to the lymphocytic immune system. Therapeutic response to sublingual administration is as good as it is to allergy injections.

Since majority of patients are allergic to multiple antigens, including dustmite, cat, dog, molds and many other pollens, the two available single antigen tablets are of very limited use.

European allergists have been using sublingual allergy drops containing multiple antigens for many years. Peer reviewed published literature has shown these drops are as effective as allergy injections.

The advantages of oral drops are: “no needle”, home administration and a much lower risk of anaphylaxis. And the disadvantage: health insurance policies do not cover oral drops because FDA still considers them investigational. Despite this, for patients who are averse to needles, or those who do not have the time or inclination for weekly injection visits, this is a welcome alternative to get the benefit of long-term relief. And, for patients who have flex accounts or spend down limits, it makes no difference, as it is a medical expense.

We have a Fact Sheet on Oral Allergy Drops for patients on our website: Asthmaweb.com.

As always, we are here to serve your patients with Asthma and Allergy problems howsoever we can.

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Asthma & Allergy Center