

## L28 Epicutaneous Immunotherapy (EPIT) Is Effective and Safe to Treat Peanut Allergy: A Multi-National Double-Blind Placebo-Controlled Randomized Phase IIb Trial

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**RATIONALE:** To date there is no specific approved treatment for peanut allergy. EPIT is well tolerated and appears promising for the treatment of peanut allergy.

**METHODS:** In a multicenter double-blind, placebo-controlled phase IIb trial, 221 subjects (6–55 years) reacting to a peanut protein (pp) eliciting-dose (ED)  $\leq 300$ mg during DBPCFC were randomized to 1 year Viaskin<sup>®</sup> Peanut (VP), at different doses (50 $\mu$ g, 100 $\mu$ g, 250 $\mu$ g pp), or Viaskin<sup>®</sup> placebo. The primary efficacy endpoint at 1 year was the proportion of responders with a pp ED 10-fold greater than the pp ED at entry or achieving a post-treatment ED  $\geq 1000$ mg. Cumulative reacting dose (CRD) of pp was also measured. Immunologic studies were performed at entry, 3, 6 and 12 months.

**RESULTS:** The overall primary efficacy endpoint was met, with VP250 showing best results: 50.0% responders vs 25.0% with placebo,  $p=0.0108$ ; children (6–11 years) exhibited 53.6% responders vs 19.4% for placebo,  $p=0.0076$ . In children, the mean CRD showed a VP dose-dependent response: +61mg, +471mg, +570mg and +1121mg for placebo, VP50, VP100 and VP250 respectively. Children's immunological responses were robust: with VP250 - PN-IgE exhibited a median increase  $\geq 50$  kU<sub>A</sub>/L at 3 months and decreased back to baseline at 12 months; median PN-IgG4 at 12 months increased in a dose-dependent fashion: 5.5-, 7.2- and 19.1-fold for VP50, VP100 and VP250, respectively. Compliance was  $>95\%$ , dropout for adverse events  $<1\%$ , and there were no serious adverse events related to treatment.

**CONCLUSIONS:** In peanut allergy, EPIT appears safe and effective; the CRD was dose-dependent and maximum efficacy was seen with VP250.

## L29 Natural History of Peanut Allergy and Predictors of Persistence in the First 4 Years of Life: A Population-Based Assessment

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**RATIONALE:** There is no prospectively collected data available on the natural history of peanut allergy in early childhood. Previous studies have been biased by failure to challenge high-risk children when IgE antibody levels are high, potentially biasing towards persistent allergy. We sought to describe the natural history of peanut allergy between ages 1 and 4 years and develop thresholds for skin prick test (SPT) and serum specific-IgE (sIgE) that have 95% positive predictive value (PPV) to persistent peanut allergy.

**METHODS:** Challenge-confirmed peanut allergic 1-year-old infants ( $n=156$ ) from the population-based, longitudinal HealthNuts Study ( $n=5276$ ) were followed up at 4 years of age with repeat oral food challenge. SPT and sIgE ( $n=103$ ). Challenges were undertaken at both ages 1 and 4 years, irrespective of risk profile.

**RESULTS:** Peanut allergy resolved in 22% (95% CI 14-31%) of children by age 4 years. Falling wheal size predicted tolerance while increasing wheal size was associated with persistence. Thresholds for SPT and sIgE at age 1 with 95% PPV to persistent peanut allergy are SPT  $\geq 13$ mm and sIgE  $\geq 5.0$  kU/L. Thresholds for SPT and sIgE at age 4 with 95% PPV to persistent peanut allergy are SPT  $\geq 8$ mm and sIgE  $\geq 2.1$  kU/L. Ara h2, tree nut and house dust mite sensitisation, coexisting food allergies, eczema and asthma were not predictive of persistent peanut allergy.

**CONCLUSIONS:** These thresholds are the first to be generated from a unique dataset where all participants underwent OFC at both diagnosis and follow-up, irrespective of SPT and sIgE.