

# Allergy

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SUPPLEMENT

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821

### Effect of specific immunotherapy on bronchial reactivity in asthmatic patients

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**Background:** Dermatophagoides is the most important genus of mites involved in the pathogenesis of bronchial asthma in patients from our part of the world. Their role as precipitating asthma factors in a particular patient can be evidenced during the specific bronchial provocation test (sBPT). A reduction in the number of indoor mites and specific immunotherapy (SIT) are the causal methods of allergic mite asthma therapy. Although SIT is somewhat controversial method for the treatment of bronchial asthma, it is the only method that can modify the immunologic response. Some authors have reported both clinical improvement and reduction in bronchial hyperreactivity (BHR) during SIT in patients sensitized to cat and mite allergens. The aim of these studies was to estimate the effect of long-term SIT with mite allergens on bronchial response to histamine and a specific allergen in patients suffering from allergic mite asthma. **Methods:** The studies were carried out on 43

mild asthma patients. The forty-three patients were treated with Novohelisen depot containing 50% of Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus and 50% of Dermatophagoides farinae allergens (Allergopharma J.G. - Germany) for at least one year, 21 of them were treated for two years, eight for 3 years, six for 4 years and one - 5 years. Bronchial provocation tests with histamine and Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus allergen (Aquagen SQ, ALK, Denmark) were performed before starting SIT and then every year. The 646 De Vilbiss jet nebulizers were used to perform both types of bronchial provocation tests. **Results:** During the successive years of SIT a statistically significant increase in PD<sub>20</sub> FEV<sub>1</sub>, Dpt and a decrease in the number of the patients demonstrating a late asthmatic reaction were noted. A statistically significant decrease in non-specific bronchial hyperreactivity after the first course of SIT was observed, but later these changes were not statistically significant. **Conclusion:** The results obtained show that long-term SIT with mite allergens can reduce both, early and late bronchial responses to an allergen.