

*PJGergen et al. Clinical and Experimental Allergy December (2000) Vol. 30 p.1717.*

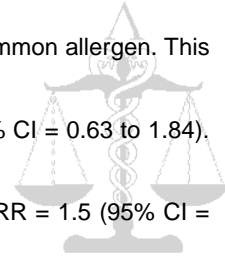
An investigation of a hypothetical association between allergy and death from cardiovascular disease and cancer.

Skin-prick-test for common allergens were applied to 9,252 adults (over 30) between 1976 and 1980. Results were tested for association with outcomes recorded on death certificates up to 1992.

An average of 16% of the population had a positive skin prick test to at least one common allergen. This proportion decreased with age of subject.

Association with all causes of death was measured by a risk ratio (RR) of 1.07 (95% CI = 0.63 to 1.84). That is there was no statistically significant association.

Association with cancer had a RR of 0.89 (95% CI = 0.33 to 2.43), cardiovascular RR = 1.5 (95% CI = 0.51 to 4.36). That is there were no statistically significant associations.



Comment

Skin prick tests may not be 100% accurate.

Results would seem to show (if generalisable) that acquired allergies, which persist into adult hood, do not present increased risk from cancer or cardiovascular disease. In theory, the same should be true of occupational sensitisation, (unless there are known links that operate independently of sensitisation).

Fear of loss would seem to be unfounded. The generality of this extrapolation will continue to be monitored.

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