

## Chapter 7: Allergy

### MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

#### 1. Define the term “allergy”?

Ans:

Allergy is a disease caused by different conditions of hypersensitivity of the immune system to different things present in the environment that generally do not have any bad effect on most people. This includes asthma, hay fever etc.

#### 2. Name the inflammatory chemical released by the basophils causing skin reaction and constriction of the bronchioles.

Ans:

Histamine is the inflammatory chemical released by the basophils causing skin reaction and constriction of the bronchioles.

#### 3. How the allergy causing chemical is naturally removed from the body?

Ans:

There is no permanent treatment for allergy. Medicines if any give only temporary relief. Those who are reactive to allergies should be aware of their allergens and avoid them completely.

**4. Match the items given under column I with those under given under Column II:**

<b>Column I</b>	<b>Column II</b>
<b>(i) Dust allergy</b>	<b>(a) nuts</b>
<b>(ii) Food allergy</b>	<b>(b) pollen</b>
<b>(iii) Seasonal allergy</b>	<b>(c.) asthma</b>

**Ans:**

<b>Column I</b>	<b>Column II</b>
<b>(i) Dust allergy</b>	<b>(c) asthma</b>
<b>(ii) Food allergy</b>	<b>(a) nuts</b>
<b>(iii) Seasonal allergy</b>	<b>(b) pollen</b>

**5. Name any three routes by which allergies normally enter in our body.**

**Ans:**

The three routes by which allergies normally enter in our body are:

- (i) Mouth:** Most people are allergic to foods such milk, eggs, wheat etc.
- (ii) Skin:** Things that come in contact with the skin such as latex etc.
- (iii) Nose:** Pollen, dust, etc.

**6. What are allergens? Name any three allergens.**

**Ans:**

Allergens are the substances that cause allergies. The three allergens are :-

- (i) Nuts**
- (ii) Pollen**
- (iii) Dust particles**

**7. Name the two tests generally used to diagnose allergy and describe any one of them.**

Ans:

The two tests generally used to diagnose allergy are prick test and blood test.

**Prick Test:**

This test is also called as ‘puncture testing’ or ‘prick testing’. There are a number of minute pricks or punctures made into the skin of patients. A tiny metal or plastic tool is used to make the pricks. The allergens are injected into the dermis of the patient’s skin with the help of syringe and needle. Little quantity of extracts of allergens or the suspended allergens like those of pollen, peanut extracts are exposed to the sites that have been marked by a pen or color. The areas where pricks are made are usually forearm and the back.

**Blood Test:**

A large number of allergens can be identified from a patient’s sample of blood. When the sample is sent to the laboratory for analysis of allergens, the concentration of defined antibodies is measured. The test helps to determine the what kind of allergens the patient is reactive to, the path of disease development, identify the chances of severe reaction and define cross reactivity.

**8. Which test is mostly favored for testing allergy, prick test or blood test? Why?**

Ans:

Blood testing is mostly favored for testing allergy. This is so because the patient is not exposed to allergens in the

blood test unlike the prick test where allergens are introduced to the skin of the patient.

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