

Allergy Department

MEDICATIONS THAT MAY INTERFERE WITH SKIN TESTING

Allergy patients scheduled for skin testing must not use antihistamine compounds prior to their skin testing appointment. The compounds include not only the “classic” antihistamines, but certain compounds with “antihistamine-like activity”, such as benzodiazepines, sedatives, and certain types of antidepressants. Please check the lists below for medications that need to be avoided prior to skin testing.

NOTE: Many medications (prescribed or over-the-counter) for allergies, cough, cold, nausea, or sleep contain ingredients that may interfere with skin testing. Please check the medication label to see if any of the listed medications are included.

**Due to continued advances, not all medications may be listed at the time of printing.*

Oral Antihistamines	
STOP THESE MEDICATIONS 7 DAYS PRIOR TO SKIN TESTING (*unless otherwise indicated)	
Generic Name	Common Brand Names
Bromphenarimine	BroveX, Dimetane, Lodrane
Carbinoxamine	Karbinal ER, RyVent
Cetirizine	Zyrtec
Chlorpheniramine	Actifed, Aller-chlor, Chlor-Trimeton, Tylenol Allergy
*Cyproheptadine (14 DAYS)	Periactin
Desloratidine	Clarinex
Dexchlorpheniramine	RyClora
Diphenhydramine	Benadryl, Somnex, Triaminic, Unisom, many combination medications that contain "PM" in the title
Dimenhydrinate	Dramamine
Doxylamine	Sleep-Aid, Unisom
Fexofenadine	Allegra
*Hydroxyzine (14 DAYS)	Atarax, Vistaril
Ketotifen	Zaditen
Levocetirizine	Xyzal
*Loratadine (9 DAYS)	Alavert, Claritin
Meclizine HCl	Antivert, Bonine
Pheniramine	Theraflu Flu & Sore Throat
Promethazine	Phenergan, Promethegan
Pyrilamine	Midol

Antihistamine Nasal Sprays

STOP THESE MEDICATIONS 48 HOURS PRIOR TO SKIN TESTING

Generic Name	Common Brand Names
Azelastine	Astelin, Astepro, Dymista
Olopatadine	Patanase

Antihistamine Eye Drops

STOP THESE MEDICATIONS 24 HOURS PRIOR TO SKIN TESTING

Generic Name	Common Brand Names
Alcaftadine	Lastacaft
Azelastine	Optivar
Bepotastine	Bepreve
Cetirizine	Zerviate
Epinastine	Elestat
Ketotifen	Alaway, Zaditor
Olopatadine	Pataday, Patanol
Pheniramine	Naphcon-A, Opcon-A, Visine-A

H2 Blockers- Heartburn Medications

STOP THESE MEDICATIONS 48 HOURS PRIOR TO SKIN TESTING

Generic Name	Common Brand Names
Cimetidine	Tagament
Famotidine	Pepcid
Nizatidine	Axid
Ranitidine	Zantac

Tricyclic Antidepressants

DO NOT STOP THESE MEDICATIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSING WITH THE PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN

STOP THESE MEDICATIONS 11 DAYS PRIOR TO SKIN TESTING (ONLY AFTER CONSULTING WITH PRESCRIBING MD)

Generic Name	Brand Names
Amitriptyline	Elavil
Amoxapine	Asendin
Chlorpromazine	Thorazine
Clomipramine	Anafranil
Desipramine	Norpramin
*Doxepin (14 DAYS)	Adapin, Sinequan, Zonalon (+topical)
*Imipramine (14 DAYS)	Tofranil
Nortriptyline	Aventyl, Pamelor
Protriptyline	Vivactil
Trimipramine	Surmontil

Benzodiazepines	
DO NOT STOP THESE MEDICATIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSING WITH THE PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN	
STOP THESE MEDICATIONS 7 DAYS PRIOR TO SKIN TESTING (ONLY AFTER CONSULTING WITH PRESCRIBING MD)	
Generic Name	Brand Names
Alprazolam	Xanax
Clonazepam	Klonopin
Diazepam	Valium
Lorazepam	Ativan
Midazolam	Versed

Atypical Antidepressants/ Sedatives	
DO NOT STOP THESE MEDICATIONS WITHOUT DISCUSSING WITH THE PRESCRIBING PHYSICIAN	
STOP THESE MEDICATIONS 5 DAYS PRIOR TO SKIN TESTING (ONLY AFTER CONSULTING WITH PRESCRIBING MD)	
Generic Name	Brand Name
Bupropion	Wellbutrin
Chlorpromazine	Thorazine
Eszopiclone	Lunesta
*Mirtazapine (7 DAYS)	Remeron
*Quetiapine (7 DAYS)	Seroquel
Trazodone	Desyrel, Oleptro
Zolpidem	Ambien

Other antidepressants such as: citalopram, (Celexa), escitalopram (Lexapro), fluoxetine (Prozac), paroxetine (Paxil), sertraline (Zoloft), and venlafaxine (Effexor) **will not** interfere with skin testing.

You may continue to use decongestants (Sudafed), steroid nasal sprays (Flonase, Nasacort AQ, Nasalide, Nasonex, Rhinocort AQ), nasal cromolyn (NasalCrom), and any asthma medications (theophylline, asthma inhalers, Singulair).

DO NOT STOP TAKING YOUR ASTHMA MEDICATIONS