

Medications to Avoid Prior to Allergy Skin Testing

If you are unable to stop any of these medications, please contact the allergy clinic at [773-296-5500](tel:773-296-5500) to discuss further.

The following medications may affect the accuracy of allergy skin testing and should not be taken within **5 days** of an allergy skin test **unless otherwise noted in parentheses below**:

NOTE: Many patients take “cold,” “sinus,” “allergy,” and/or “sleep” medications which contain antihistamines or other medications that will interfere with allergy skin testing. If in doubt, do not take these medications **7 days** before testing.

| Antihistamines – Oral medications | |
|--|--|
| Generic name | Common brand names |
| Bromphenarimine | BroveX, Dimetane, Lodrane |
| Carbinoxamine maleate | Histex Pd, Palgic, Pediatex |
| Cetirizine | Zyrtec |
| Chlorpheniramine (6 days) | Ahist, Aller-Chor, CPM, Chlo-Amine, Chlor-Allergy, Chlor-Mal, ChlorTrimeton, Chlorphen, Effidac-24, Histex, Ridraman |
| Clemastine (10 days) | Allerhist-1, Contact 12 Hour Allergy, Tavist-1 |
| Cyproheptadine (11 days) | Periactin |
| Desloratidine | Clarinx |
| Dexochlorpheniramine | Polaramine |
| Diphenhydramine/doxylamine succinate | Benadryl, Ibuprofen PM, Nyquil, Tylenol PM, ZzzQuil |
| Dimenhydrinate | Dramamine |
| Fexofenadine | Allegra |
| Hydroxyzine (8 days) | Atarax, Rezone, Vistaril |
| Levocetirizine dihydrochloride | Xyzal |
| Loratadine (9 days) | Alavert, Claritin |
| Ketotifen | Zatiden |
| Meclizine HCl | Antivert, Bonine |
| Methdilazine | Tacaryl |
| Metquitazine | Primalan, Quintadrill |
| Mizolastine | Mizollen, Mistamine |
| Phenindamine | Nolahist |
| Promethazine | Chlorpromazine, Phenergan, Promethazine, Prorex 25 and 50, Thorazine |
| Antihistamines – Nasal sprays | |
| Azelastine | Astelin, Astepro, Dymista |
| Olopatadine | Patanase |
| Antihistamines – Eye drops | |
| Azelastine | Optiver |
| Olopatadine | Pataday, Patanol |
| Other | |
| Cimetidine (1 day) | Tagamet |
| Corticosteroids (topical) applied to arms and/or back (14 days) | |
| Famotidine (1 day) | Pepcid |
| Nizatidine (1 day) | Axid |
| Ranitidine (1 day) | Zantac |

Medications that you **DO NOT** need to stop before allergy testing:

***DO NOT stop taking inhalers for respiratory illnesses, such as asthma or COPD.**

| Nasal sprays | |
|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Beclomethasone | Beconase, QNasl |
| Budesonide | Rhinocort |
| Cromolyn sodium | Nasalcrom |
| Flunisolide | Nasarel |
| Fluticasone | Flonase, Veramyst, Avamys |
| Mometasone | Nasonex |
| Oxymetazoline | Afrin |
| Phenylephrine | Neosynephrine |
| Triamcinolone | Nasacort |

| Eye drops | |
|------------------|---------|
| Ketorolac | Acular |
| Lodoxamide | Alomide |
| Nedocromil | Alocril |
| Perimolast | Alamast |

| Protein pump inhibitors (PPI) | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Dexlansoprazole | Kapidex |
| Esomeprazole | Nexium |
| Lansoprazole | Prevacid |
| Omeprazole | Prilosec, Zegerid |
| Pantoprazole | Protonix |
| Rabeprazole | Aciphex |

| Serotonin Norepinephrine Reuptake Inhibitors (SNRI) | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| Desvenlafaxine | Khedezia, Pristiq |
| Duloxetine | Cymbalta, Drizalma Sprinkle, Irenka |
| Milnacipran | Ixen, Savella |
| Venlafaxine | Effexor |

| Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRI) | |
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| Citalopram | Celexa |
| Escitalopram | Lexapro |
| Fluoxetine | Prozac |
| Fluoxetine + olanzapine | Symbyax |
| Paroxetine | Paxil |
| Sertraline | Zoloft |

| Other | |
|--|-----------|
| Antibiotics | |
| Corticosteroids (oral) if used less than 10 days | |
| Guaifenesin | Mucinex |
| Montelukast | Singulair |
| Pseudoephedrine | Sudafed |

