

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** 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	Clarinex
Dexochlorpheniramine	Polaramine
Diphenhydramine/doxylamine succinate	Benadryl, Ibuprofen PM, Nyquil, Tylenol PM, ZzzQuil
Dimenhydrinate	Dramamine
Fexofenadine	Allegra
Hydroxyzine (8 days)	Atarax, Rezine, 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)	
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