

**2018 Annual Congress of the  
European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology**

**Passive Immunotherapy – The Future of Allergy Treatment?**

Munich, Germany, 26 May 2018 – EAACI Congress 2018

Plenary 4; A Novel Treatment Approach: Passive Immunotherapy, Monday 28 May 9:00 – 10:30

Embargo policy lifted: 28 May 2018 – 10:30

**Passive Immunotherapy – The Future of Allergy Treatment?**

The only approach for allergy that aims to cure is allergy immunotherapy. This treatment has been applied for more than a century and is based on multiple injections of a specific allergen in increasing doses. It can be applied for multiple clinical phenotypes of allergies and for different groups of allergens. Immunotherapy for insect venom allergy has the best clinical effect. Immunotherapy for pollen from grass or trees has also proven rather successful. A more challenging prospect is immunotherapy for house dust mite allergies. Looking at the clinical phenotype of allergies, it is especially allergic rhinitis in which allergy immunotherapy is most effective. Currently, the potential of the treatment of food allergy by allergy immunotherapy is an urgent need and a highly relevant research area. However, much more research is needed in order to answer the questions as to whether this treatment will work in food allergy and for which food allergens. The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), is an international scientific organisation for leading clinicians and researchers in this important field and has very recently released the book; *Allergen Immunotherapy Guidelines*.

At the EAACI Annual Congress 2018 a novel approach will be presented, namely passive immunotherapy. In this treatment not allergens, but blocking antibodies are administered to the patient to treat allergies. This has many potential benefits to the patient. For instance, treatment by allergy immunotherapy may take up to five years and may include monthly injections, whereas protection by passive immunotherapy can be almost instantaneous. In addition, allergy immunotherapy functions by applying increased doses of allergens which can have side-effects that may be severe or even life-threatening, this is however not the case for the passive allergy immunotherapy. During a plenary symposium at the EAACI Congress 2018 the first results of studies on humans with allergy passive immunotherapy as a treatment for cat allergy will be presented. The session will not only discuss the potential of this treatment-in-treatment of allergies but will also introduce the technical details of this innovative treatment option for allergy.

**EAACI Congress 2018 in Munich**

The scientific programme of the EAACI Congress 2018 will present the best in science with educational sessions from distinguished researchers from across the globe. An expected attendance of 8000 participants from more than 80 countries, including more than 450 invited speakers, will address major advances and novel challenges in the field. Covering key topics on allergic diseases and asthma the EAACI Congress provides a multidisciplinary forum for allergists, pulmonologists, ENTs, dermatologists, internists, pediatricians, gastroenterologists, clinical immunologists and primary care physicians, allied health professionals and patients organisation representatives.



### **About EAACI**

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology (EAACI), is a non-profit organisation active in the fields of allergic and immunologic diseases such as asthma, rhinitis, eczema, occupational allergy, food and drug allergy, and anaphylaxis. EAACI was founded in 1956 in Florence, Italy and has become the largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It includes over 10'000 members from 122 countries, as well as over 60 national and international member societies.

Over the past 62 years, EAACI has dedicated its resources to improving the health of people affected by allergic diseases and asthma. With experience and knowledge in allergy science, EAACI is the primary source of expertise in Europe and beyond for all aspects of allergic diseases and asthma.

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