A reporting system for adverse reactions to food in Europe: a community-based Allergic REACTions (AlleREACT) intervention

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Background: Mild to severe adverse reactions to food in the community are under-researched, and biopsychosocial risk factors are poorly understood. An online system has been developed to allow for real-time reporting of incidents for food allergic patients in seven European countries under auspices of the iFAAM (Integrated Approaches to Food Allergen and Allergy Risk Management) project.

Aim: To develop and validate a real-time, multilingual, online-based reporting system to capture real-world circumstances and determinants of food allergic incidents across Europe.

Methods: The Allergic REACTions (AlleREACT) is an international community-based intervention using a prospective multi-site design. Adults, adolescents and parents of children with food allergies in the UK, Ireland, Germany, Spain, France, Belgium and Poland will report food allergic incidents using a validated online reporting tool between April-December 2016.

Results: Following experts’ consultations and Patient Organisations’ (POs) workshops, a short version of a previously validated reporting tool ‘Allergic Reactions in the Community’ (AlleRiC) was adapted for international use. The new measure has already been tested online and piloted in the English language by adults and parents of children with food allergies (N=37). Translation and back-translation have been completed in German, Spanish, French and Polish and the system has now been launched.

The resulting tool “AlleREACT™” is a comprehensive (42 items), user-friendly and takes only 10 minutes to complete.

Conclusion: AlleREACT builds on e-Health and community-based research frameworks. It will provide novel findings in areas not previously researched in depth, and promote understanding of food allergic incidence with implications for risk assessment and risk management across Europe.

It is intended that the tool will be used by patient groups and individuals within the community and managed by POs from participating countries.