IMMUNOTHERAPY

Nursing Assessment Associated With Immunotherapy

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Immunotherapy

Allergy shots (immunotherapy) are a treatment in which small doses of substances to which you are allergic (allergens) are injected under your skin. Over time, your body may become less responsive to the allergens, which means you may have fewer symptoms.

-- from the Kaiser Permanente online Health Encyclopedia
Preparation of Injection Area

- Document refrigerator temperature
  - Range should be (36° to 46° F)
- Check that supplies are available
  - Syringes, alcohol, ice, etc.
- Necessary antigens stored on ice packs

Patient Arrival

- Kaiser card
- Routing slip placed in tray if Kaiser card is not available
- Patient Questionnaire (Allergy Injection Form) is completed

Questionnaire

***PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONNAIRE PRIOR TO RECEIVING YOUR ALLERGY INJECTION TODAY.***

NAME __________________________
DATE __________________________

1. Increased nasal symptoms?
2. Increased chest or asthma symptoms?
3. Did you experience a reaction with your last allergy injection?
4. Are you pregnant?
5. Are you taking any new medications?
   Please list: ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________
   ___________________________________________
6. Will you be able to wait 30 minutes after your allergy injection today?
   Please take care of your restroom needs prior to receiving your allergy injection.
Chart Review

- Correct chart?
  - Verify Name
  - Medical Record Number
  - Photo Check
- Note:
  - Last MD visit
  - Last injection
  - Reactions to last injection
  - Peak Flow on asthmatic patients
  - Dose adjustments

Antigen Selection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Antigen</th>
<th>Five Rights</th>
<th>Dose</th>
<th>Route</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Patient</td>
<td></td>
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Contraindications

Delay injection for the following reasons:

- Respiratory tract infection
- Wheezing
- PEFR reduced by 20%
- Beta-blockers
- Vaccine administered same day
Injection

- Triple check (Verify the Five Rights)
- Are these the right antigens and dilutions for this patient?
- Draw up antigens
- Give injection subcutaneously on back of upper arm

Local Immunotherapy Reactions

- Observe patient 30 minutes
- Local reactions (at the injection site):
  - Redness
  - Mild burning
  - Swelling or itching
- Treatment
  - Treat with ice
  - Hydrocortisone cream if itching persists

Systemic Immunotherapy Reactions

(Symptoms occurring distant from injection site)
Nurse shall continue auditory and visual assessment of patients for:
- Itching of skin and mucus membranes, scalp, ears, hands and feet
- Wheezing, coughing, or clearing of throat
- Chest tightness
- Red blisters progressing to urticaria
- Tearing eyes, sneezing, nasal congestion
Treatment of Systemic Reactions

- Systemic reactions require immediate treatment with ice to site
- Tourniquet applied above injection site
- Adrenalin per standing order
- Notify MD Immediately

The End