Clinical and Translational Allergy

POSTER PRESENTATION Open Access

Clinical impact of molecular diagnosis in cat allergy

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From 5th International Symposium on Molecular Allergology (ISMA 2013)
Vienna, Austria. 6-7 December 2013

Background

Allergy to cat is a frequent cause of rhinitis, asthma or contact urticaria. Dander, saliva and urine are sources of cat allergens. The prevalence of sensitization to different cat allergens is not well known.

Methods

We select 105 sensitized patients to cat. Specific IgE measurement to cat allergens Fel d1, Fel d2 and Fel d4 was performed by ImmunoCAP® and/or microarray ISAC® (ThermoFisher Scientific, Sweden), a value > 0,35 kU/L or >0,3 ISU was considered as positive, respectively. Skin prick test was performed with an ALK-Abelló extract (Denmark). Association of Specific IgE measurements and presence and type of rhinitis or asthma was studied. Statistical analysis was performed using Fisher test and chi-squared test.

Results

88% of patients had specific IgE to Fel d1, 22% to Fel d2, and 42% to Fel d4. 48% were monosensitized to Fel d1, 7% to Fel d2 and 4% to Fel d4. 86% of sensitized patients to Fel d4 were also sensitized to Fel d1. Fel d2 was associated with severity of rhinitis and asthma ($p < 0.01$, p 0.01, respectively). Fel d4 was associated with presence of asthma symptoms ($p<0.04$). Direct contact with cats was associated both to persistence and severity of rhinitis (p 0.0003, p 0.0001, respectively). A positive skin prick test to cat was associated with rhinitis and asthma symptoms ($p < 0.01$, $p < 0.01$, respectively).

Conclusion

Different patterns of sensitization to cat allergens in patients with cat allergy can help us to predict the severity and persistence of symptoms.

Published: 17 March 2014

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doi:10.1186/2045-7022-4-S2-P51
Cite this article as: Uriarte Obando and Sastre Domínguez: **Clinical impact of molecular diagnosis in cat allergy.** *Clinical and Translational Allergy* 2014 **4** (Suppl 2):P51.