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Overview of clinical work and research done on beta-lactam allergy at a community academic teaching hospital in Toronto, Canada

Benjamin BL Wong

University of Toronto, Canada

A llergy and clinical immunology is an exciting and ever changing field, providing allergists and clinical immunologists increasing and unique opportunities to work with multiple medical subspecialties and interdisciplinary personnel. Beta-lactam allergy has been a major focus in the field of drug allergy in part due to its ubiquitous use, implications for health care resource utilization, and increased awareness of antimicrobial stewardship. This presentation highlights work done at a community academic teaching hospital affiliated with the University of Toronto, Canada, over the past few years. Practical cases and management of penicillin allergy, opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations with medical subspecialists and pharmacists, development of a practical clinical pathway with decision algorithms, patient history refinement on electronic medical records, as well as point-of-care management guide for non-allergists will be discussed. Research opportunities including utilization of point of care beta-lactam allergy skin testing (BLAST) and the standardized use of state of the art electronic order sets for oral challenges and desensitization will also be highlighted.

Biography

Benjamin Wong completed his MD at University of Toronto, Canada. He subsequently completed Post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and Subspecialist training in Allergy and Clinical Immunology. He is a Consultant at North York General Hospital. For more than 10 years, he has been the Chair of the Section of Allergy and Clinical Immunology of the Ontario Medical Association. He has been the Chair and Co-chair of the Allergy Update, an annual symposium in Ontario where international researchers gather and participate in furthering the field of allergy and clinical immunology. At a national level, he serves as a member of the Board of Examiners of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

benny.wong@utoronto.ca

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