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Increasing prevalence of the sensitization to cat/dog allergens in Korea

Kwang Joong Kim

Hallym University Sacred Heart Hospital, South Korea

Introduction & Objectives: Recently, the number of domestic pets has increased. As a consequence, sensitization to animal allergens, such as cat or dog allergens, has become a problem. We studied the annual trends of sensitization to cats or dogs and the characteristics of the patients. The aim of this study was to evaluate whether D-dimer, total Immunoglobulin E (IgE) and autoimmune markers, such as anti-Thyroid Peroxidase (TPO) and anti-Thyroglobulin (TG), were elevated in ASST-positive patients with CU compared to ASST-negative patients and whether these laboratory findings were related to the severity of CU.

Materials & Method: We retrospectively analyzed the medical records of 7469 patients who visited a dermatology clinic and underwent an allergic profile test, from January 2011 to December 2015. Specific IgE levels to cat or dog antibody greater than 3.50 IU/mL were regarded as positive results.

Results: In all, 257 patients showed significant increase in levels of specific IgE antibody to dog and 307 revealed increases in levels of specific IgE antibody to cat. The prevalence of these specific IgEs increased from 2011 to 2015. Independent risks for sensitization to cat allergens were sensitization to dog, house dust, *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus* and *D. farinae*. Independent risks for sensitization to dog allergens were sensitization to cat, house dust, *D. pteronyssinus* and *D. farinae*. Total IgE level was not related to specific IgE level against either cats or dogs.

Conclusion: The prevalence of sensitization to cat or dog has increased. Sensitization to cat or dog is related to each other, but is irrelevant to the total IgE level.

Biography

Kwang Joong Kim is a Faculty at Department of Dermatology, Hallym Sacred Heart Hospital, Republic of Korea. He is also a Board Member of Asia Dermatology Association.

hallyndermaa@naver.com

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