Test yourself in allergy diagnosis

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Choose only one answer:

1. Causes of false negative skin prick test results include all except:
   - a. Drugs modulating the allergic reaction
   - b. Diseases attenuating the skin response
   - c. Improper technique (no or weak puncture)
   - d. Very high serum IgE level

2. Causes of false positive skin prick test results include all except:
   - a. Dermatographism
   - b. Irritant reactions
   - c. Extracts of poor initial potency or subsequent loss of potency
   - d. Enhancement from a nearby strong reaction

3. A common error on skin prick testing is:
   - a. Tests are more than 2 cm away
   - b. Induction of bleeding
   - c. Testing in the skin of the back
   - d. Leaving skin to dry after antiseptic

4. The following are allergens that may cause asthma except:
   - a. Aspergillus
   - b. Blomia tropicalis
   - c. Cat dander
   - d. Peanut butter
   - e. Smoke

5. Mark the correct statement
   - a. SPT measures mainly sensitization not allergy
   - b. Infection with leprosy can lead to a negative SPT
   - c. A patient with a positive SPT test may not react upon challenge
   - d. Patients with widespread eczema cannot be tested in areas of affected skin
   - e. All of the above

6. The following medications alter SPT results except:
   - a. Sedating antihistamines
   - b. Non-sedating antihistamines
   - c. Antidepressants
   - d. Inhaled corticosteroids

7. One of the following statements is true:
   - a. There is cross reactivity between cockroach and shrimp allergens
   - b. Food allergy is more common in adults than young children with asthma
   - c. There is cross reactivity between latex and beef
   - d. H2 antagonists have major effect on SPT results

8. Indications of serum allergen specific IgE include all except:
   - a. Positive challenge test
   - b. Patient cannot stop antihistamines
   - c. Patient is morbidly afraid of skin testing
   - d. Dermatographism

9. Mark the incorrect statement:
   - a. SPT cannot be performed before 4-6 weeks following anaphylaxis
   - b. The value of serum specific IgE testing is limited by the cost and delay in obtaining the results
   - c. False-positive results of blood testing can occur due to nonspecific binding of antibody in the assay
   - d. SPT can be used to assess the efficacy of immunotherapy
10. Component resolved diagnosis means:
   a. Using purified native or recombinant allergens to detect IgE sensitivity
   b. Using individual allergen molecules in allergy diagnosis
   c. Utilize molecular-based allergy diagnostics
   d. All of the above
   e. None of the above

11. Molecular based diagnostics are valuable in all of the following except:
   a. Resolving genuine versus cross-reactive sensitization in poly-sensitized patients
   b. Assessing the risk of severe systemic versus mild reactions in food allergy
   c. Diagnosing cases of cell-mediated allergic reactions
   d. Identifying patients and triggering allergens for specific immunotherapy
   e. All of the above

12. When to do a food challenge test?
   a. When the SPT result to fish is just positive (>3 mm but less than 8 mm)
   b. When mother insists that her child reacts to a food although the SPT results are negative
   c. In cell-mediated reactions after successful elimination
   d. When the Specific IgE level is positive but not high enough to diagnose allergy
   e. All of the above

13. One of the following statements is false:
   a. Bronchial provocation testing cannot be done before 5 years of age
   b. Provocation testing is not preferred during beta-blocker therapy
   c. Pollen allergy is common during infancy
   d. The value of serum total IgE in the diagnosis of allergy is limited
   e. None of the above

(Answers on page 83)