



Allergen-Specific Injection Immunotherapy I

807 - Evaluation of groups of patients treated with allergen-specific immunotherapy in 1991-2003 with regard to dropouts

Liska, M; Gutova, V; Malkusova, I; Hanzlikova, J; Panzner, P

University Hospital Pilsen, Dpt. of Immunology and Allergology, Pilsen, Czech Republic

The background of the study: Allergen-specific immunotherapy is an important form of causal therapy of allergic diseases. For optimal effect of the therapy it is necessary to reach recommended length of therapy, i.e. 3 to 5 years. Our aim was to evaluate statistically how we managed to reach recommended length of treatment. If not reached, to analyze reasons why.

The methods used: Based on health records from years 1991-2003 we have evaluated statistically how many patients had finished allergen-specific immunotherapy prematurely and why, considering the form and type of the vaccine. Distribution of dropouts according to sex and age was evaluated as well.

The results obtained: During that time period 1 209 patients were treated in our department. Overall 829 subjects finished the treatment and 308 of them irregularly, i.e. they did not reach the minimum of recommended length of treatment (3 years). The most common reason of premature stopping of the treatment was poor compliance ($n = 177$; 57.3%), the second were long-term health problems which appeared during the treatment and were not related to it ($n = 74$; 23.9%) and the third most common reason were adverse reactions to the treatment ($n = 34$; 11%). The other reasons were substantially less common.

The conclusions reached: Our results are comparable with the results of similar published observations, at least partially. They suggest the need to improve the cooperation between the physician and the patient treated by allergen-specific immunotherapy.

