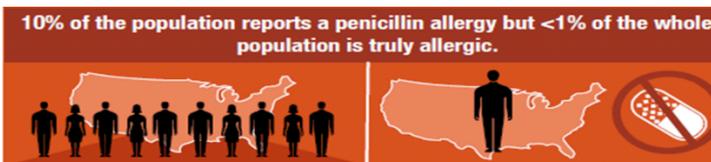


Do you have a Penicillin Allergy?

If you were told you were allergic to penicillin, chances are you are not. Facts about penicillin allergy:



- In patients who are allergic to penicillin, 50% outgrow their allergy after 5 years and 80% outgrow after 10 years of avoidance.
- Family history of penicillin allergy does not increase your own personal risk of having an allergy.

Why should you get your allergy status checked?

Harms associated with using alternative antibiotics

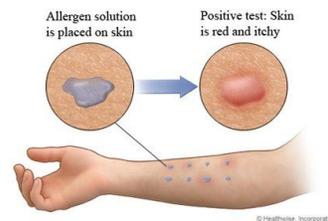
- Increased risk of creating “superbugs”
- Exposing yourself to second best or other antibiotics
- More side effects
- Increasing the chances of infection with other bacteria
- Needing to use several antibiotics in combination to treat the same infection, which is more expensive.

Benefits of removing your allergy

Removing a penicillin allergy label makes sure that you have the best antibiotic options available for treatment of infections during this hospitalization and beyond.

What is involved in testing?

Penicillin Skin Testing



Penicillin skin testing uses a small amount of penicillin and places it under the skin where allergy cells are located. This test has been available for many decades and has a very good safety record. Several studies have even shown that performing penicillin skin testing is safe. It has a 99% accuracy at ruling out potentially life threatening (anaphylactic) penicillin allergies.

Oral Challenge Test



If your physician decides that you have a low chance of having an allergy, you will be given one dose of a penicillin antibiotic as a capsule. You will be observed afterwards by either a nurse or a physician. The majority of immediate reactions occur within 30 minutes of taking the antibiotic and tend to be mild. You will be observed for at least 1 hour afterwards. The risk of a severe reaction is very low (1/200 000) with taking an oral antibiotic. Once you have “passed” your oral challenge, you will be deemed not allergic. Your risk of developing a penicillin allergy in the future will be the same as anyone else.