

## Local immunotherapy

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Allergen specific hyposensitization is a treatment procedure extensively used for asthma and hayfever. This is, however, an expensive treatment because of a large number of visits to the doctor's office over a period of several years. Repeated intranasal applications of allergen extracts handled by the patient would be a more convenient and economical approach to immunotherapy.

Initial studies using glutaraldehyde modified timothy allergen in a double blind pre- and co-seasonal study showed a significantly beneficial effect on clinical symptoms, nasal sensitivity as measured by challenge tests and appearance of IgE, IgA and IgG antibodies in the nasal secretion. These studies have been confirmed by several research groups. Some researchers have not obtained a beneficial effect, a result that probably can be explained by the selection of patients for the study and the dosage of allergen administered.

Local immunotherapy is an attractive alternative to conventional injection hyposensitization treatment. However, further studies on the type of allergen preparation to be used and optimal allergen dosages to be given have to be performed before this is a routine treatment.

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