

Reactions Paper

Allergies result from an allergic response to antigens. Any substance can cause an allergic reaction. These substances are called antigens. These antigens cause an immune response when they come into contact with the patient. This immune response leads to the release of antibodies that attach to immune cells which then makes the patient sensitive to the antigen. The next time the patient is introduced to the antigen these immune cells will attack the antigen. This leads to the release of histamine and other chemicals. These chemicals enter the surrounding tissue and cause allergic rhinitis. Signs of allergic rhinitis is sneezing, itchy nose, runny nose, red eyes, itchy eyes, and watery eyes. More serious cases of allergic reactions can occur as well. An example of this is anaphylaxis. Anaphylaxis is a severe systemic allergic reaction that occurs when a patient comes into contact with an antigen that they are sensitive too. The occurrence of anaphylaxis is much like a more severe allergic reaction than allergic rhinitis. The same process occurs where the antibodies produced by your immune system to attack an antigen attach to mast cells and make the patient sensitive to the antigen. The next time the antigen is introduced to the body the immune cells will attack the antigen releasing histamine and other chemicals which will cause the allergic reaction. Signs and symptoms of anaphylaxis include swelling of lips, tongue, and throat. A patient may also experience hives, itchiness, and skin flushing. The patient can also experience respiratory distress such as shortness of breath, wheezing, stridor, hoarseness, and other symptoms. There are various other possible symptoms that could occur involving the CNS, gastrointestinal tract, and other systems. Vasodilation is a symptom that can occur from anaphylaxis. This will lead to a drop in the patients blood pressure thus putting the patient into anaphylactic shock. Anaphylaxis is a serious condition and requires medical treatment immediately. If not treated it can lead to anaphylactic shock and even death. Anaphylaxis shock can kill a patient within minutes and is extremely serious. However, dying from anaphylactic shock is not common in America. It is estimated that only 100 to 200 patients die each year from anaphylactic shock. It is also estimated that 0.05 to 2 percent of the population in the united states are expected to have anaphylaxis at some point in their lifetime. A way to treat these allergic reactions is Epinephrine injections or EpiPen's. These injections will release adrenaline and temporarily stop the allergic reaction until you can get medical treatment. Allergies can be passed down from your parents. For example, if one of your parents has allergies then there is a 1 in 3 chance you will have allergies as well. If both of your parents have allergies, then there is a 4 in 5 chance that you will have allergies. Allergies can disappear with age or you could have them throughout your entire life. There is also a possibility that an allergy you have could become way more severe as you age.