

Allergy Treatment Center

of New Jersey, PC

Venom Immunotherapy Consent Form

Patient Name: _____

Venom immunotherapy has been demonstrated to be very effective in the treatment of allergies to stinging insects. More than 90% of allergic patients improve on immunotherapy.

Venom immunotherapy is the repeated, controlled administration of specific stinging insect venom in incremental doses under medical supervision to boost the body's natural immune response to allergens. The typical treatment schedule is as follows:

Build-up

1. Injections every week for the first 9-15 weeks, depending on treatment schedule selected.
2. Injections every month for 12 months.
3. Injections every six to eight weeks, depending on reactions to the treatment, after the first year of maintenance treatment.

Maintenance

- Injections once a month.
- The duration of treatment and maintenance varies between 3 to 5 years, and can be longer for some patients.

Patients on immunotherapy must adhere to their treatment schedule to maximize benefits. If a patient fails to receive treatment during a period lasting more than 21 days during the build-up stage, the subsequent administered dose will not be increased. The build-up stage will be extended accordingly, in order to avoid serious reactions. This will prolong the duration of treatment.

Side Effects

The most common side effects to the injections are *local reactions* at the site of the injection, which may include *redness, swelling and itching* for about 1-2 hours. In some cases, the patient may experience some local delayed swelling and soreness for 8-72 hours after the injection. **Patients should inform the nursing and /or medical staff of such delayed reactions prior to receiving their next injection.**

Less commonly, *systemic reactions* can occur *during the first 30 minutes* after the injection administration. Such reactions include *hives, shortness of breath and possibly shock*. If the patient experiences any of these symptoms, adequate and rapid management by our staff will help prevent serious complications. **Therefore, patients on allergen immunotherapy are required to wait in the physician's office for 30 minutes after each injection. Should the patient choose to leave the clinic premises before 30 minutes elapse, s/he must sign a release form.** In such cases, neither the physician nor the staff can be held medically or legally liable for any severe reaction.

In addition, if a patient decides to prematurely terminate his/her allergen immunotherapy without prior consent from the physician, he/she will be held responsible for costs of unused allergen extract vials.

I have read and understood the above statement. I will abide by the above treatment regimen.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

