

## **Introduction to new concepts in diagnosis of allergy diseases – Basis of allergy diagnosis**



# Diagnosis of allergy – requirements

## Allergen-specific IgE – not just another immunoassay

Concentration of IgE antibodies in blood is extremely low in comparison to most other substances assayed, even in highly sensitized individuals

Each main allergen (pollen, food etc.) contains large numbers of different allergenic components (proteins).

A test must be sensitive enough to find ALL components

The assay must independent of influence from other immunoglobulin classes

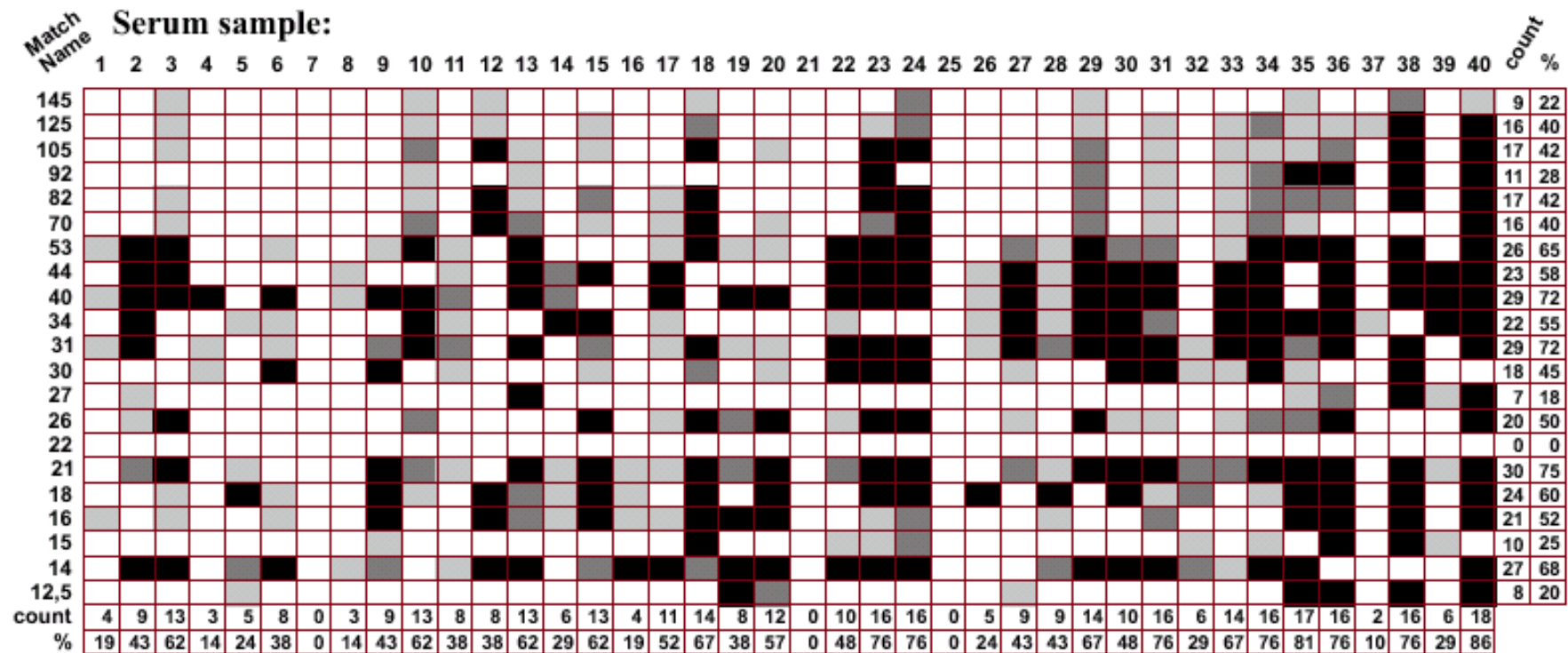
Most allergen sources are complex mixtures of biological material. To achieve a precise and reproducible test system, control of the source material is mandatory, both in content and in allergenic activity, thus reassuring lot to lot reproducibility

## Prerequisites for a quantitative specific IgE ImmunoCAP test:

- ☑ Excess of allergen (Allergen)
- ☑ Precision - Reproducibility
- ☑ Linearity
- ☑ Calibration traceable to WHO

# Diversity of IgE specificities

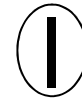
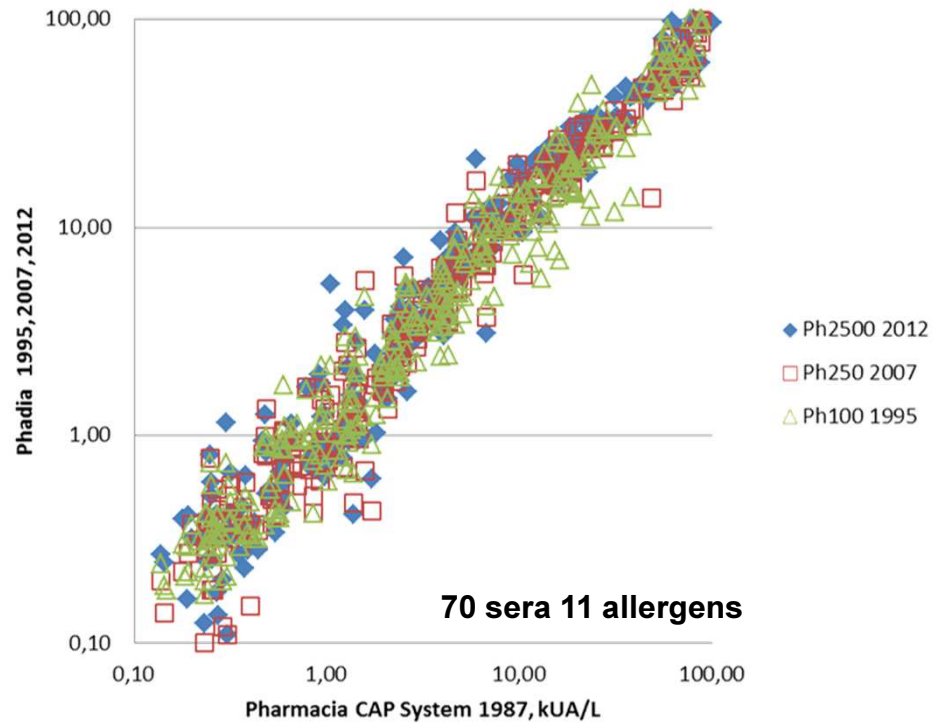
## Allergogram, Peanut



H. Perborn, 1997

# Unparalleled Precision

ImmunoCAP Consistency over 25 years



**0.1 kU<sub>A</sub>/l. LoD = LoQ**

0.1

Sample range: 0.08 – 3.8 kU<sub>A</sub>/l

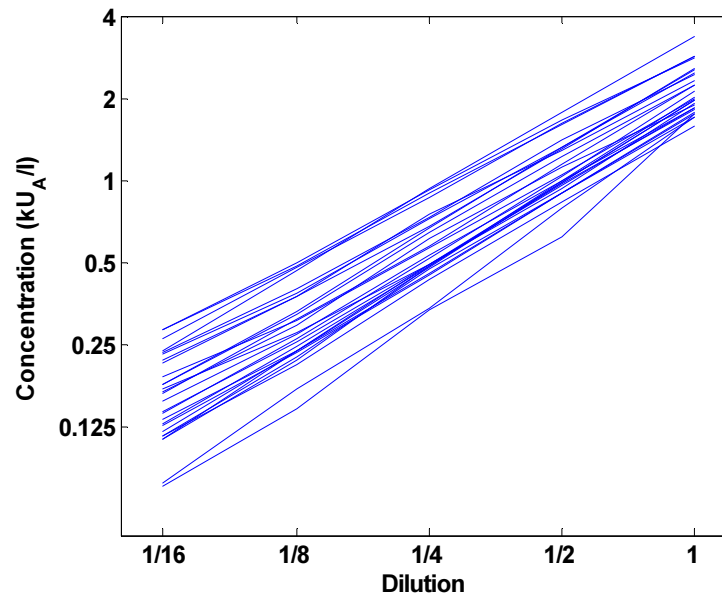
100 kU<sub>A</sub>/l

Pooled CV			
Platform	Within	Between	Total
Phadia 100	4	5	6
Phadia 250	4	4	6
Phadia 1000	4	6	6

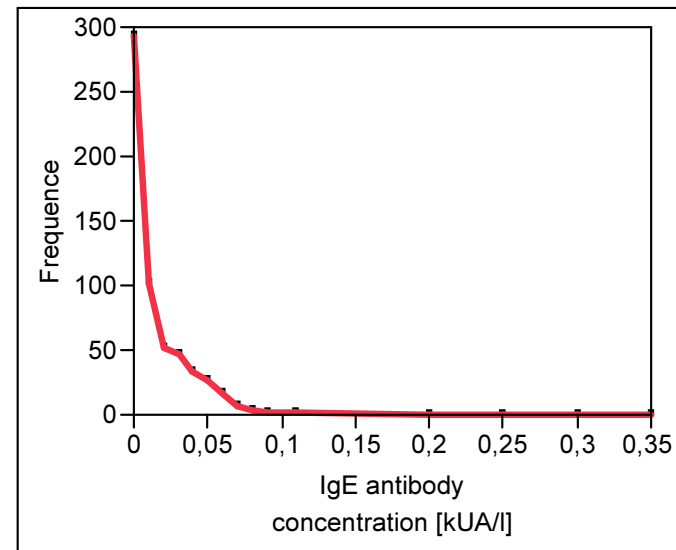
Ref: Internal studies

# ImmunoCAP – results you can trust

- Correct measurement of low levels of allergen specific IgE antibodies
- Low non-specific binding



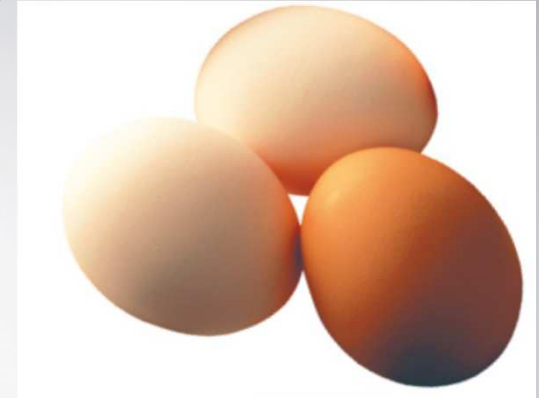
Dilution of 27 samples of 9 allergens  
in ImmunoCAP Specific IgE



Pool of healthy blood donors tested with  
584 single allergens (all allergen lots  
between 2007-2010 tested)

## Prediction – how long to tolerance?

- **Median time from first reaction after having eaten egg until tolerance was:**
- Children with low IgE-levels ( $<1.98$  KU/L) - 27 mon
- Children with high IgE-levels ( $>1.98$  KU/L) - 59 mon
- Boyano-Martinez et al JACI 2002;110:304-9



”No association has been found  
between the size of the cutaneous skin prick test reaction or s-tot IgE level  
and tolerance of the food”

- 1 kU<sub>A</sub>/L specific IgE is equal to 1 kU/L total IgE (=2,42 ng/ml) when measured with ImmunoCAP and are both traceable to WHO IgE reference 75/502
- Published quantitative relationships with clinical outcomes and decision levels in kU/L for specific IgE established with ImmunoCAP cannot be used for interpretation of results obtained with other systems.

# Phadia Systems

## Unmatched allergy portfolio

- Specific IgE, Phadiatop, Phadiatop Infant
- total IgE, specific IgG, specific IgG4, specific IgA
- Tryptase,
- ECP
- >600 complete allergens
- > 100 allergen components
- ca 800 allergens for research use





# Broad autoimmune disease panel

- Autoimmunity tests for > 20 clinical indications
- Covering all relevant markers for connective tissue diseases, gastro intestinal diseases, vasculitis, rheumatoid arthritis and antiphospholipid syndrome



<b>Rheumatoid Arthritis</b>	EliA CCP, EliA RF IgM, EliA RF IgA, EliA RF IgG Research
<b>Antiphospholipid syndrome</b>	EliA Cardiolipin IgG, EliA Cardiolipin IgM, EliA Cardiolipin IgA, EliA $\beta$ 2 Glycoprotein I IgG, EliA $\beta$ 2 Glycoprotein I IgM, EliA $\beta$ 2 Glycoprotein I IgA
<b>Connective tissue diseases (CTD)</b>	EliA CTD Screen, EliA Symphony, EliA dsDNA, EliA Sm, EliA Rib P, EliA Ro, EliA Ro60, EliA Ro52, EliA La, EliA U1RNP, EliA RNP70, EliA Scl-70, EliA CENP, EliA Fibrillarin, EliA PM-Scl, EliA Jo-1, EliA Mi-2, EliA PM-Scl
<b>ANCA-associated diseases and GBM disease</b>	EliA PR3 <sup>S</sup> , EliA MPO <sup>S</sup> , EliA GBM
<b>Celiac disease</b>	EliA Celikey IgA, EliA Celikey IgG, EliA Gliadin IgA, EliA Gliadin IgG, EliA Gliadin <sup>DP</sup> IgA, EliA Gliadin <sup>DP</sup> , IgG
<b>Inflammatory bowel diseases</b>	EliA Calprotectin
<b>Thyroid diseases</b>	ImmunoCAP Thyroid Peroxidase, ImmunoCAP Thyroglobulin
<b>IgA Deficiency</b>	EliA Anti-IgA

# ImmunoCAP help identify the allergen(s) that add up to symptoms



**Suspicion of allergy:**

**Allergy-like symptoms + Case history**

**Confirm / identify relevant allergens:**

**ImmunoCAP Complete Allergen testing with relevant tree, grass and weed pollens\* or Phadiatop**

**0.1**

**>100 kU<sub>A</sub>/l**

Risk of symptomatic allergy increases with increase in IgE anti-body level.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Test interpretation:**

**Negative (<0.1 kU<sub>A</sub>/l<sup>\*\*</sup>):**  
Symptoms are probably not caused by IgE mediated allergy.

**Positive (≥0.1 kU<sub>A</sub>/l<sup>\*\*</sup>):**  
Symptoms are probably caused by IgE mediated allergy.

**Patient management:**

**Continue examination:**  
Look for other causes.

**Treat the allergies:**

- Provide an allergen avoidance plan to keep patient below symptom threshold.
- Prescription of relevant medications e.g. antihistamines.

**Regular follow-up testing to evaluate changes in allergy profile**

**Specific Immunotherapy (SIT)?**

- ImmunoCAP Allergen Components help you identify patients and allergens for improved SIT outcome.

*\* Symptom profile containing relevant allergens. Local adaptation with respect to age and regional differences is recommended.*

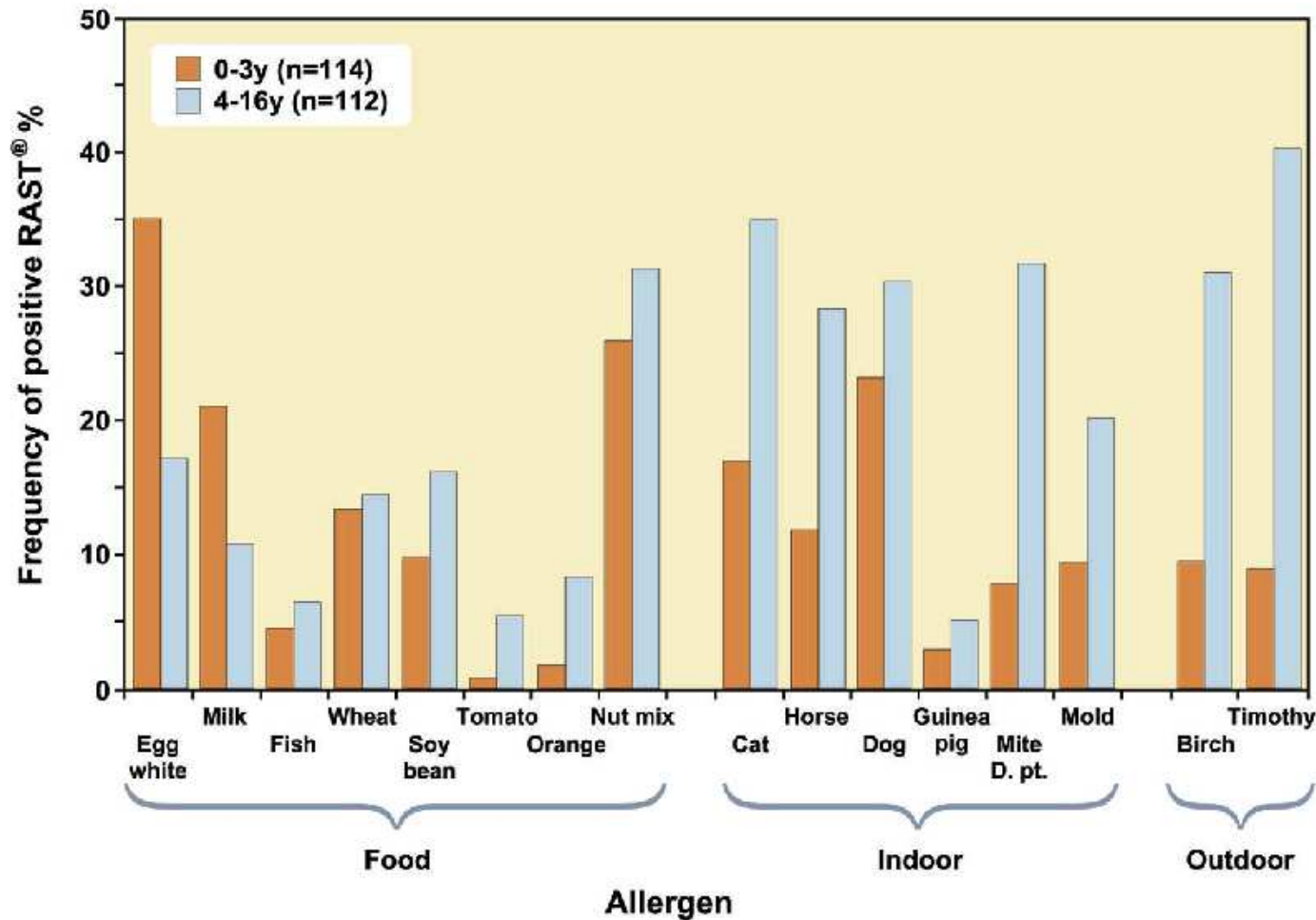
*\*\* Factors to consider for a final diagnosis: age, degree of atopy, allergen load, type of sensitizing allergens, previous symptoms, other triggering factors.*

1. Söderström L et al. Allergy 2003; 58: 921–8. 2. Sampson HA. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2001; 107: 891–6.

**Thermo**  
SCIENTIFIC

# Phadiatop Infant is especially designed for children

## Specific IgE antibodies in atopic children

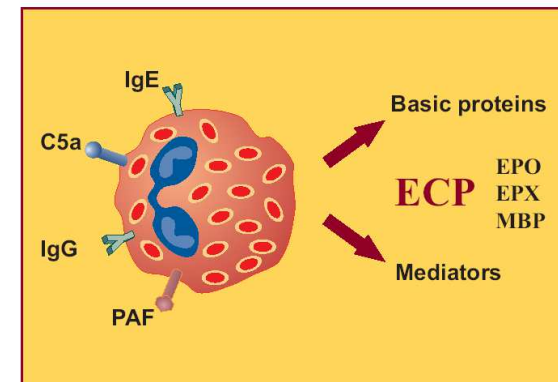


Reference: Sigurs N et al. Sensitization in childhood atopic disease identified by Phadebas RAST serum IgE and Phadiatop. Pediatric Allergy Immunology 1990; 74-78

# Cellular Markers

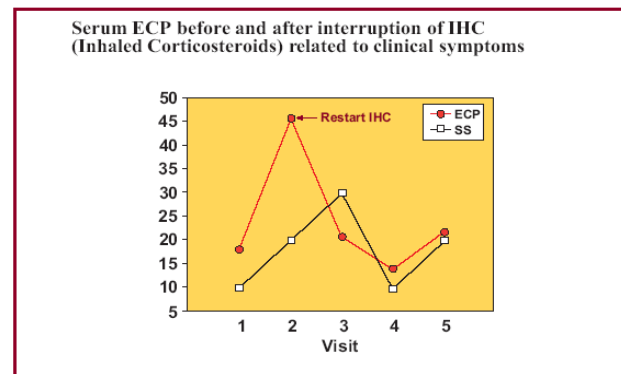
## ECP Eosinophil Cationic Protein

- ECP is released from the activated eosinophils during the inflammation process characteristic of asthma. Testing ECP can be useful in asthmatics to:
- **Monitor the inflammation**
- **Guide corticosteroid treatment**
- Values below 15 ug/l are regarded as normal, but the patient should be his own control



Reference: Venge P. Allergy 1994; 49: 1-8

### Monitoring the tapering down of steroid therapy utilising serum ECP



Reference: De Backer W et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 1995; 153(4): A336

# ImmunoCAP Tryptase

- Elevated baseline Tryptase – risk factor for severe reactions
- Risk patients with severe reactions to insect venoms and drugs
- Elevated baseline Tryptase levels indicate an increased mast cell burden and may serve as a risk factor for severe reactions during surgery.
- Base line Tryptase should be measured before starting Immunotherapy. (EAACI Position paper 2005).
- Up to 25% of patient with severe reactions to Insect stings have mastocytosis.
- Tryptase levels correspond to severity in mastocytosis
- Tryptase a marker for relapse in Acute Myeloid Leukemia

# Phadia Laboratory Systems from S to XXL

Automation and quality in allergy & autoimmunity parameter testing



**Phadia®**  
**LAB**  
COMMUNITY

**Phadia® IDM**



**Phadia®**  
LABORATORY SYSTEMS



Ideal for medium sized laboratories 250 - 350 tests/day

ImmunoCAP and EliA Well technology

Highly automated, e.g

Continuous random access

Main Frame connection

Quality / Surety Positive identification

Throughput: 60 tests/hour

Additional throughput using option of over-night runs

Results in one-minute intervals

Continuous loading of samples

Automatic sample dilution

6 methods

50 patient sample tubes (5 racks),

180 ImmunoCAP carriers, (38 stat positions)





Automatic “wake-up”

Automatic shut down after last sample

Automatic barcode reading of ImmunoCAP carriers, sample racks/tubes

Paediatric sample tubes possible to define

Manual barcode reading of all other reagents for full traceability

Reflex testing

Reagent load list printed on demand

Remote monitoring

Patient database, capacity:

- 100 000 patient name

- 500 000 samples

- 1 000 000 test results

Patient follow-up

Extended stock management

- Total laboratory stock, Print orders on demand

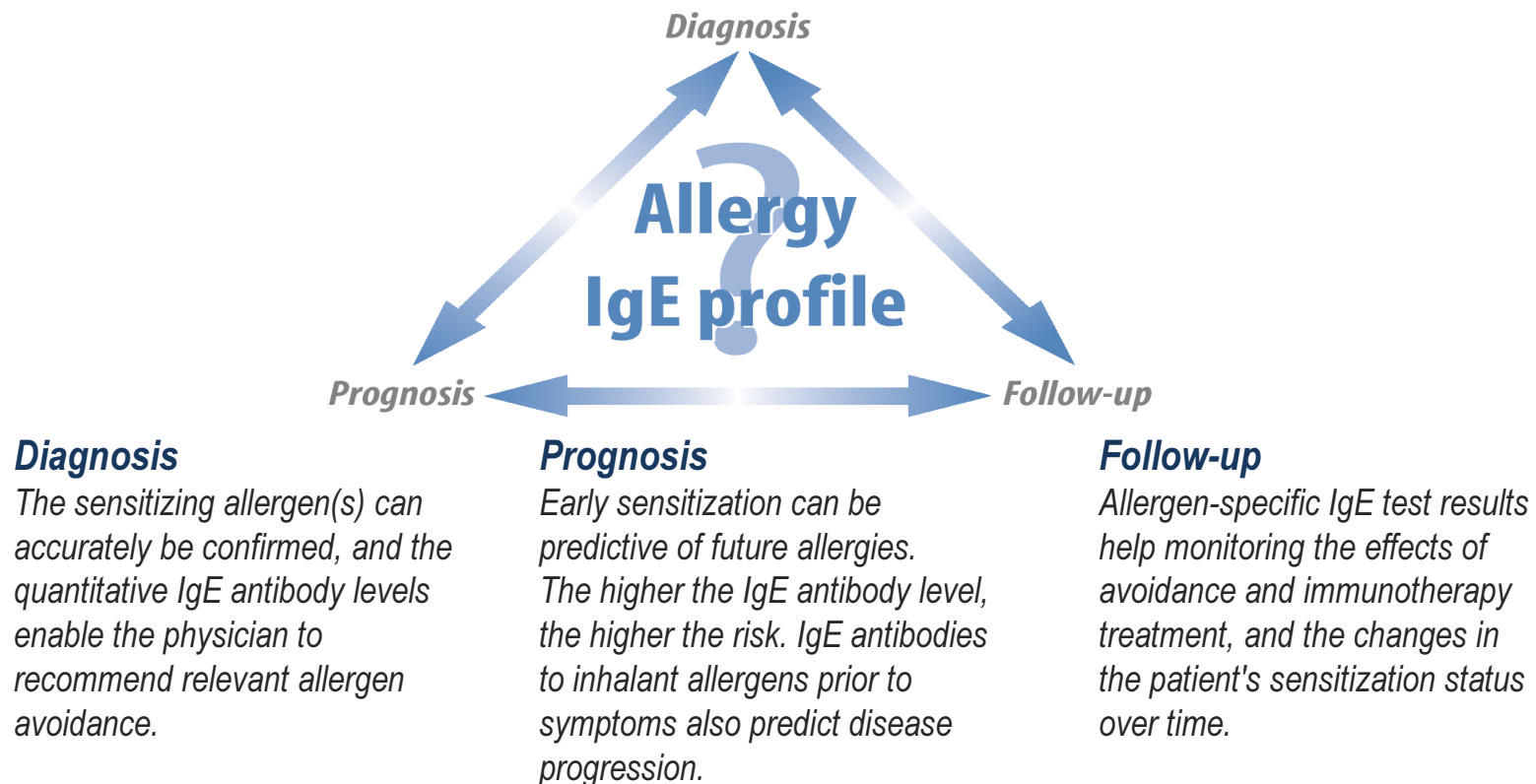




# **ImmunoCAP™ gives *real* new opportunities**

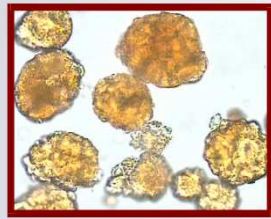
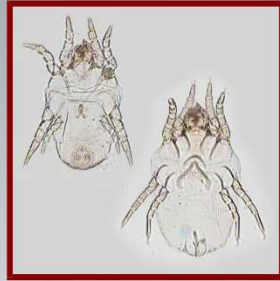
**– for diagnosis, prognosis and follow-up of your patient**

*A precise, quantitative allergen-specific IgE antibody test can detect IgE antibody formation at an early stage, even before symptoms have evolved. This enables the physician to prescribe the best strategy for managing the disease and to avoid the development of a severe chronic condition.*



**ImmunoCAP™ quantitative IgE antibody results help explain the progression of allergic disease**

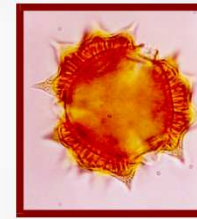
# Causing agents



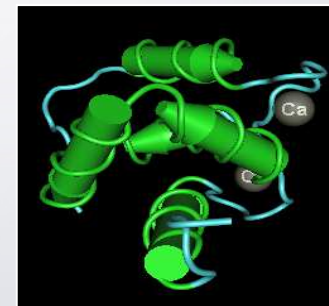
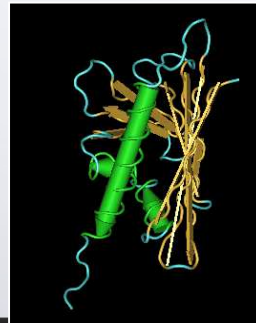
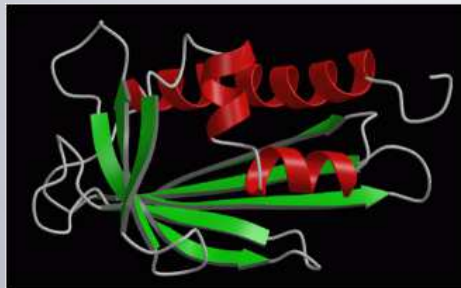
**Faeces**



**Dander  
Urine, Saliva**



**Pollen**



An allergen  
source...

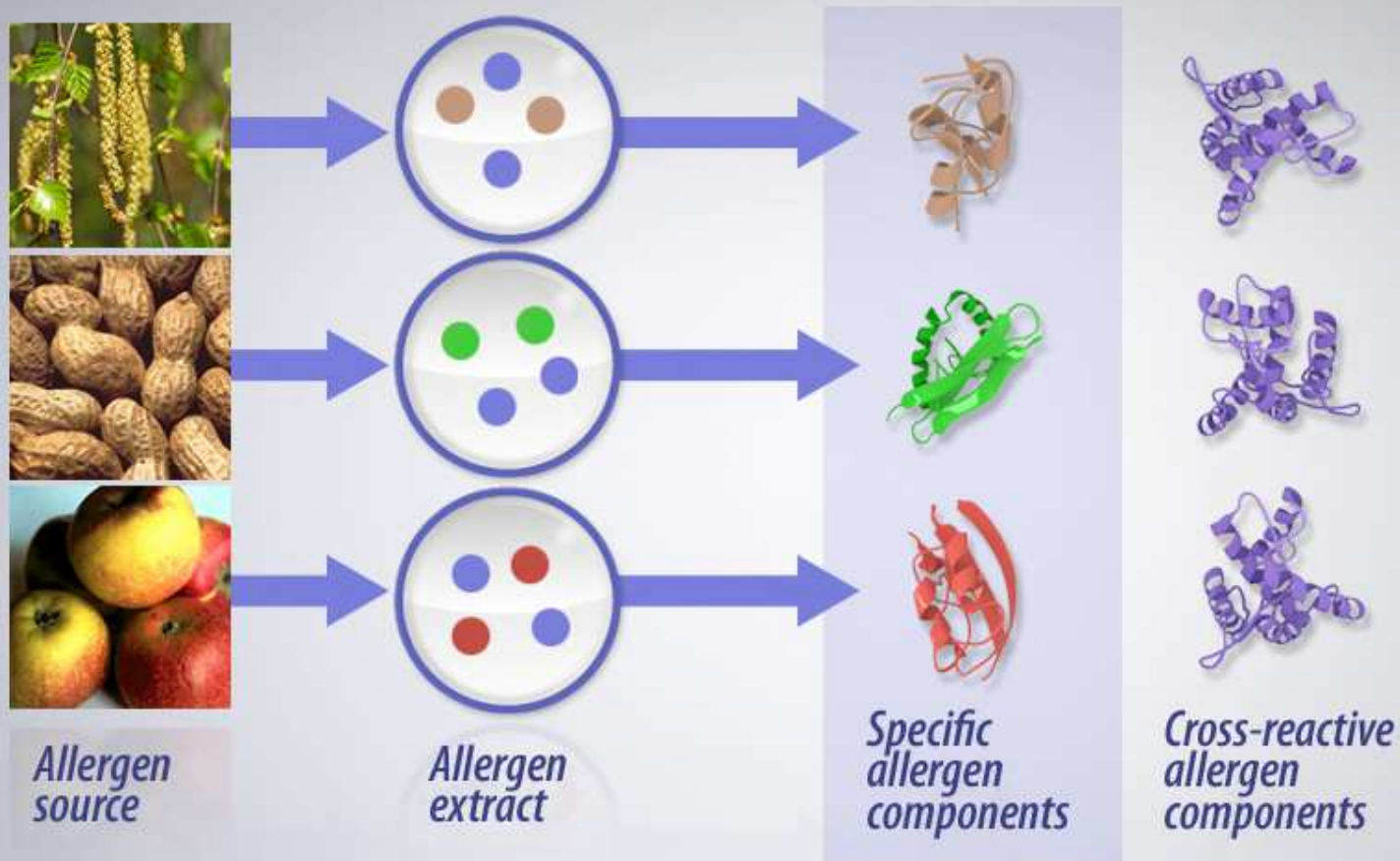


...of which only a few  
are allergenic

Allergenic molecule = component



# From allergen source to component





# Specific components

- indicate genuine sensitization



Honey bee  
**Api m 1**



Egg  
**Gal d 1**



Timothy  
**Phl p 1**



Peanut  
**Ara h 2**



Birch  
**Bet v 1**



Gal d 1 = *Gallus domesticus*, allergen # 1

International Union of Immunological Societies Allergen Nomenclature Sub-Committee [www.allergome.com](http://www.allergome.com)

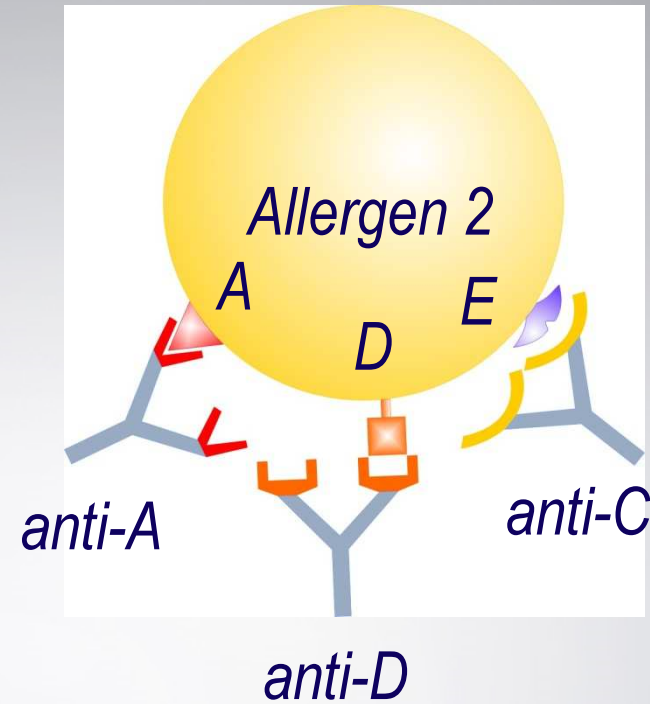
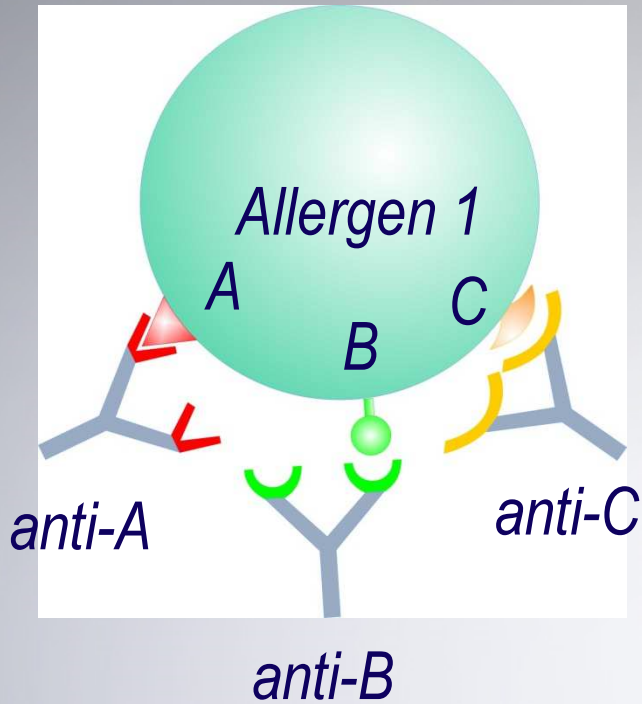
## Components are proteins with four important aspects

- Specific
- Cross-reactive
- Different stabilities
- Different amounts



Extract and components - for an improved profile

## Understanding the nature of cross-reactivity

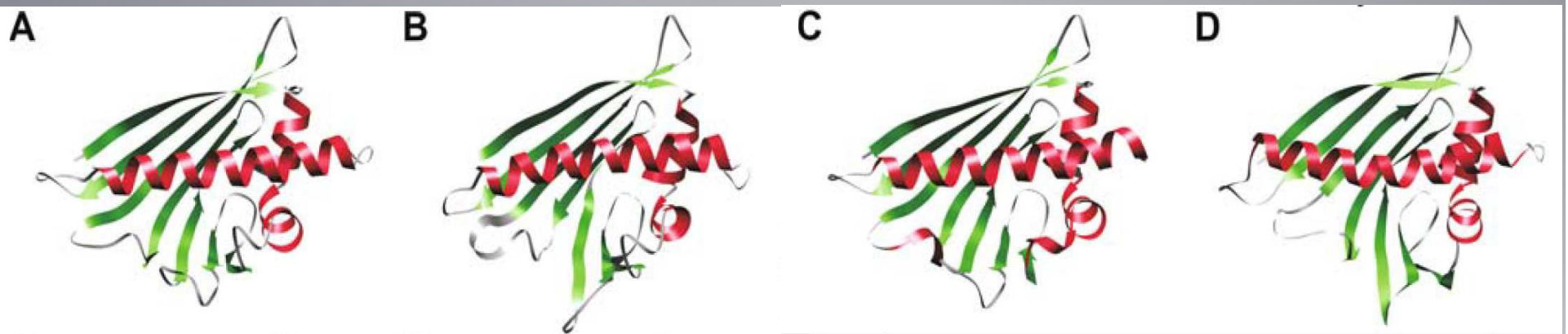


- Anti-A antibodies will react in an identical fashion with allergens 1 and 2
- Anti-B and Anti-D antibodies recognize unrelated epitopes on the two allergens and will show no cross-reactivity
- Anti-C antibodies react strongly with the homologous epitope C and cross-react weakly with heterologous epitope E

59

Similar components may be present also in distantly related species





**birch**

**apple**

**soy**

**celery**

Bet v 1

Mal d 1

Gly m 4

Api g 1

Sequence  
identity

66 %

49 %

40 %

Structural  
identity

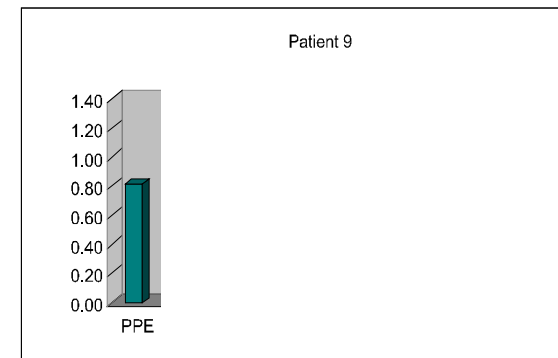
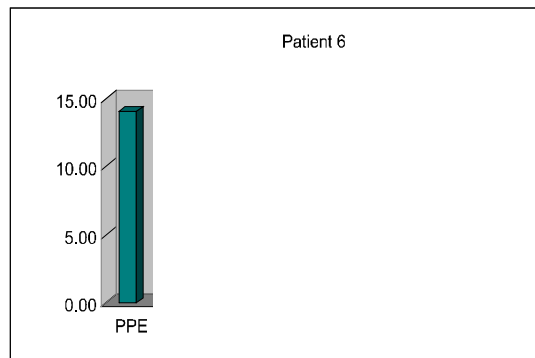
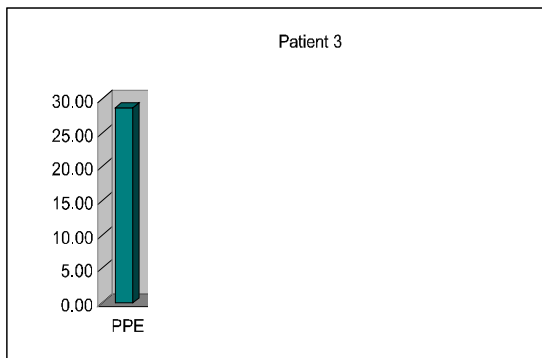
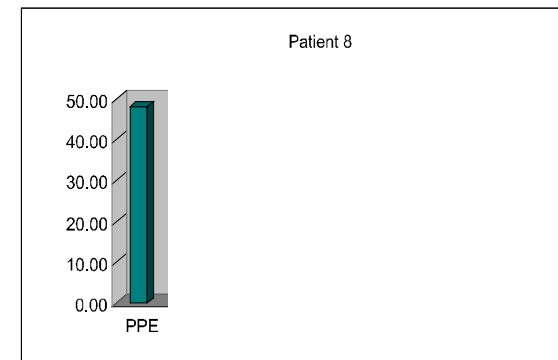
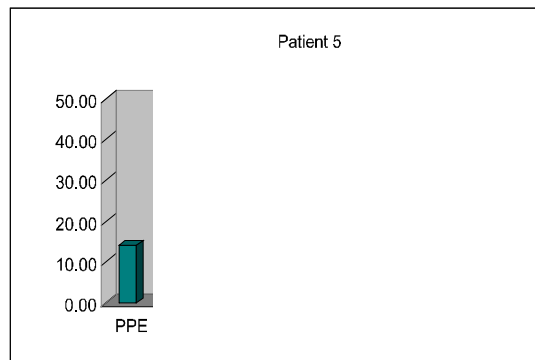
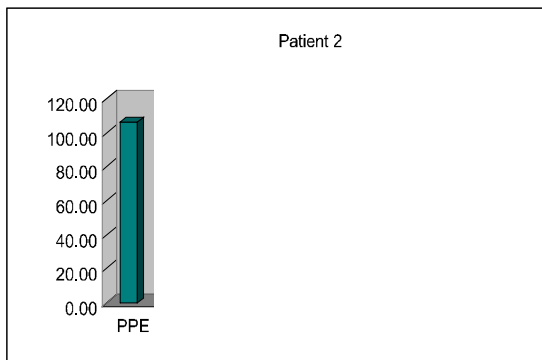
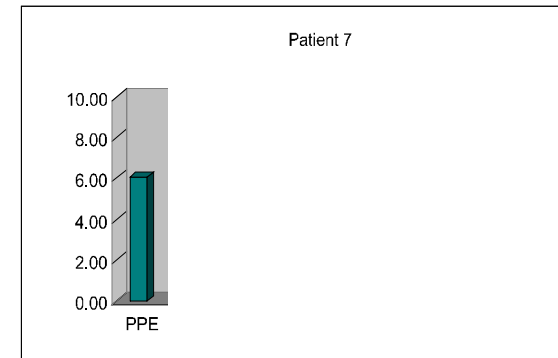
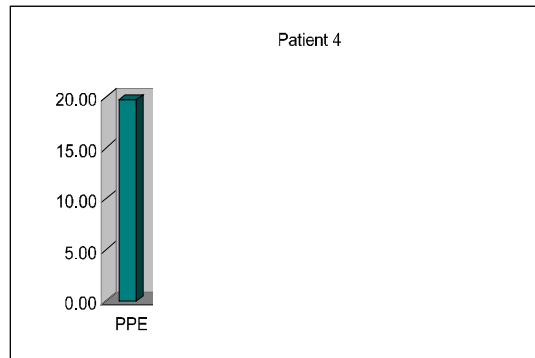
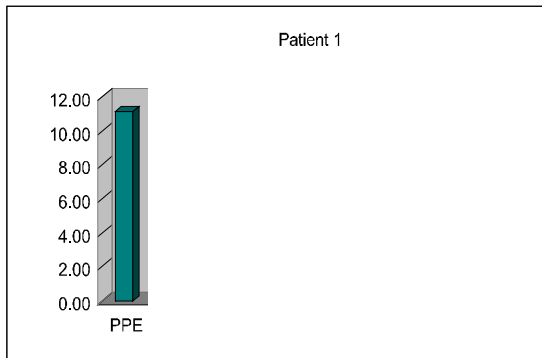
71 %

60 %

47 %

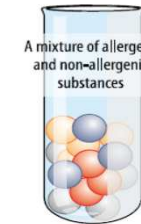
Molecular basis of cross reactivity

# Allergy diagnostics before saw only ...



# Allergy diagnostics now tell much more ...

a) Traditional diagnostics

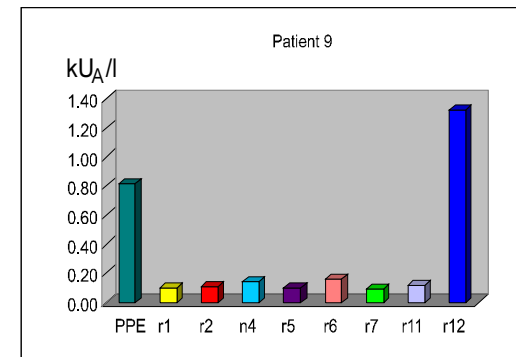
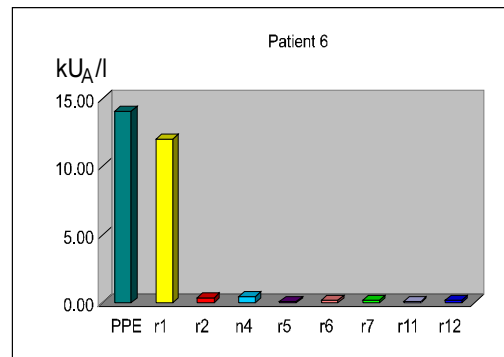
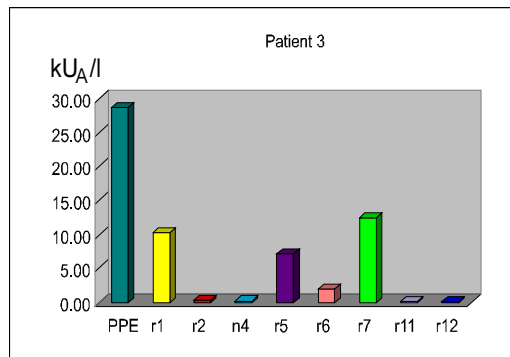
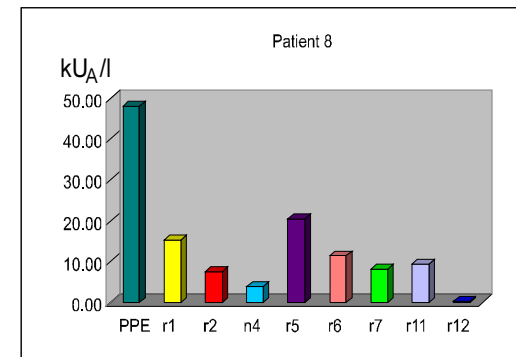
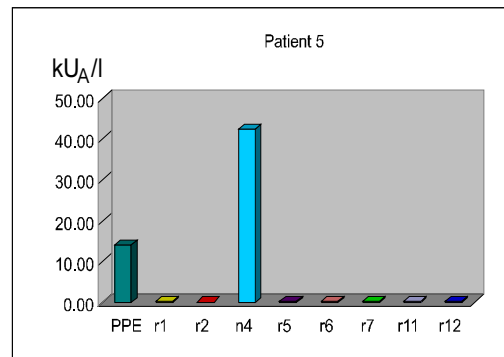
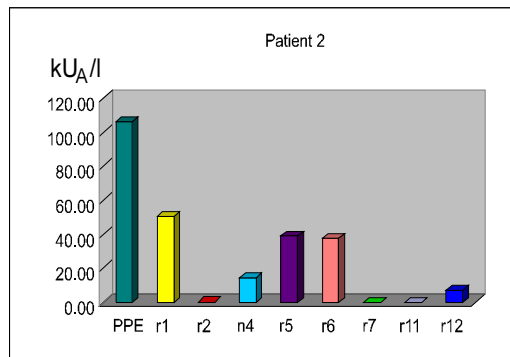
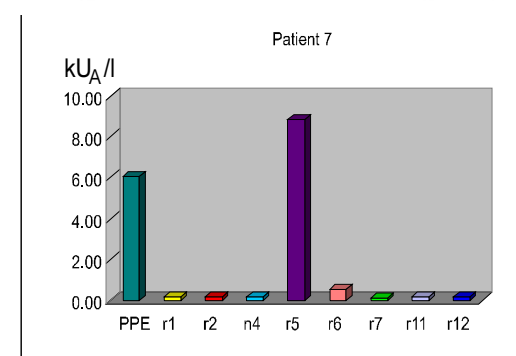
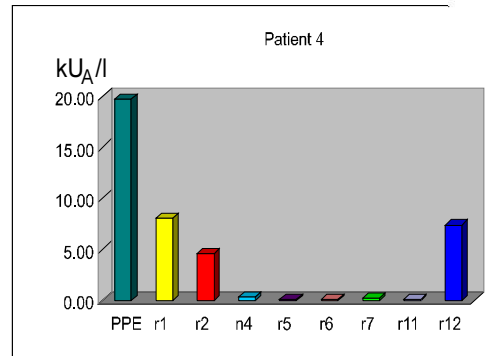
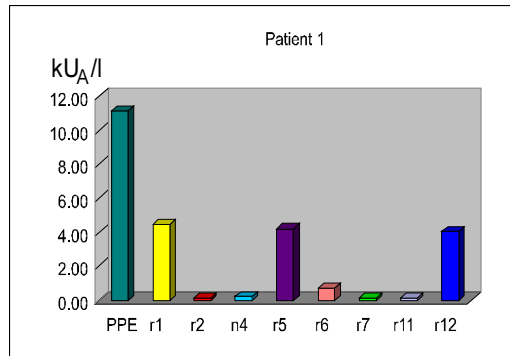


Native allergen extract

b) Component Resolved Diagnostics – CRD



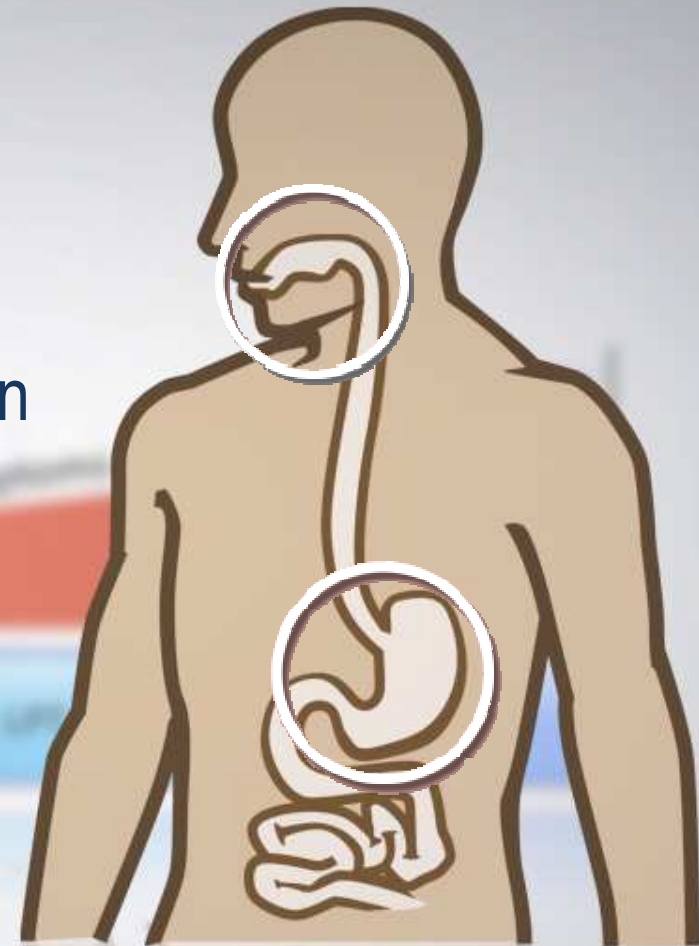
Native/recombinant proteins A, B and C



# Protein stability

Labile protein → Local reaction

Stable protein → Systemic reaction



# PR-10-Proteins

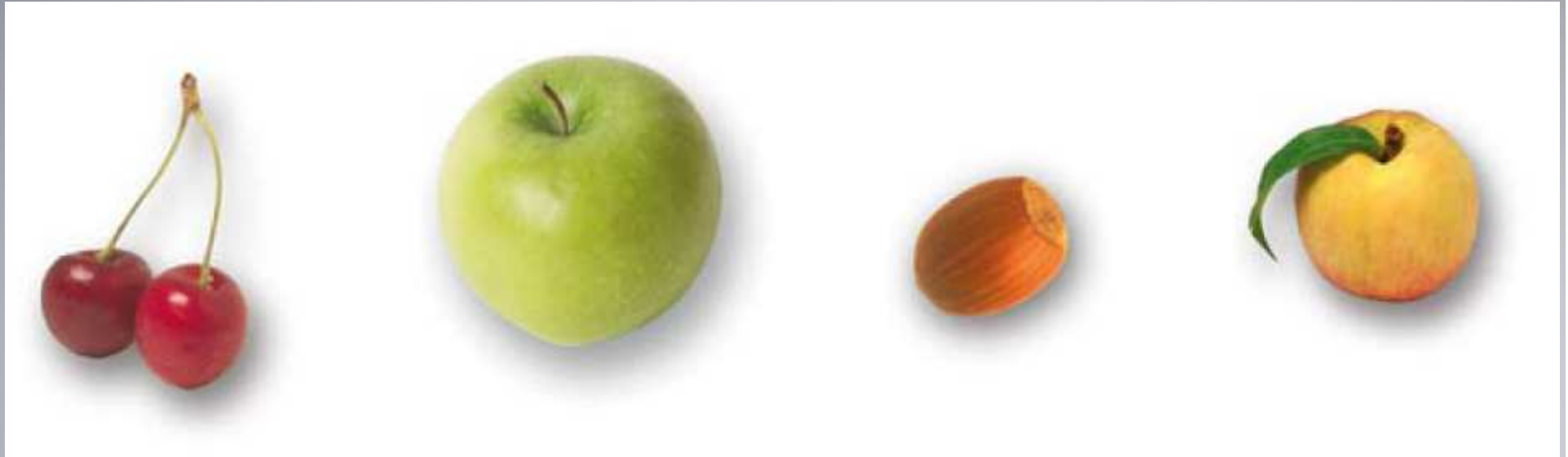


**Bet v 1**

**Bet**ula **v**errucosa

- Heat labile
- Cooked and processed foods are often tolerated
- Associated with local symptoms, such as OAS
- High sensitization rate in northern Europe

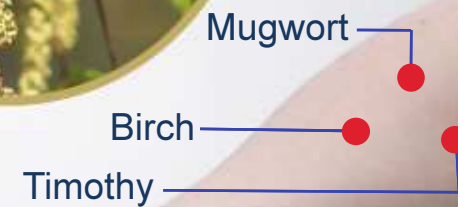
# Lipid Transfer Proteins



- Proteins stable to heat and digestion, primarily localized in the peel
- Reactions also to cooked and processed foods
- Often associated with severe systemic reactions additional to OAS



# Is it three genuine sensitizations?



# Common clinical practice

## **Patient**

**Rudolf, 13 years**

## **Previous**

*Anamnesis*

Milk allergy and eczema as an infant  
Both parents atopic

## **At 13 years**

*Clinical History*

Rhinoconjunctivitis during March-Oct  
Asthma after heavy exercise

*SPT & sIgE to birch*

+3                      7.9 kU<sub>A</sub>/l

*SPT & sIgE to timothy*

+4                      23

*SPT & sIgE to mugwort*

+3                      6.5

## **Diagnosis**

Birch, timothy and mugwort allergy

## **Recommendation:**

SIT with birch and grass pollen extracts



70% of 48 clinicians suggested SIT with grass and birch extracts +/- mugwort

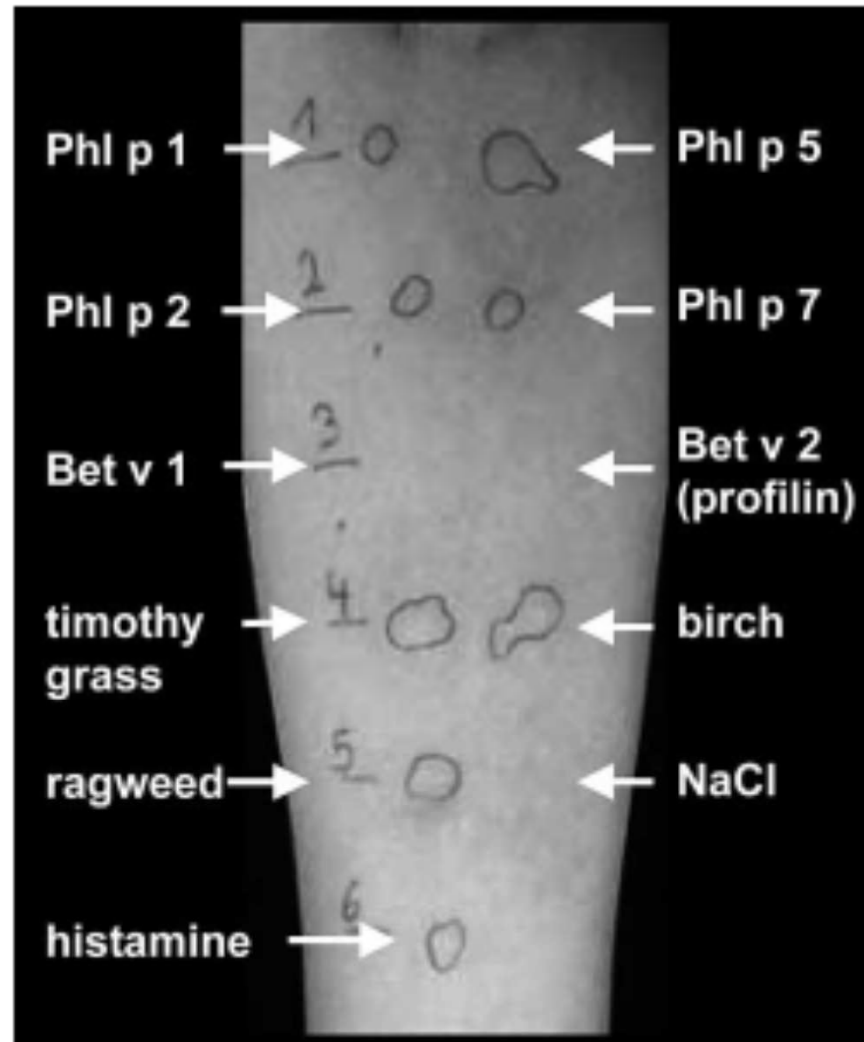


# Using components in clinical practice

<b>Patient</b>	<b>Rudolf, 13 years</b>	
<b>Previous</b>		
<i>Anamnesis</i>	Milk allergy and eczema as an infant Both parents atopic	
<b>At 13 years</b>		
<i>Clinical History</i>	Rhinoconjunctivitis during March-Oct Asthma after heavy exercise	
<i>SPT &amp; sIgE to birch</i>	+3	7.9kU <sub>A</sub> /l
<i>SPT &amp; sIgE to timothy</i>	+4	23
<i>SPT &amp; sIgE to mugwort</i>	+3	6.5
<b>Components</b>	<b>Phl p 1</b>	<b>6.5</b>
	<b>Phl p 5</b>	<b>11.2</b>
	Phl p 7	<0.1
	<b>Phl p 12</b>	<b>4.9</b>
	Bet v 1	<0.1
	Art v 1	<0.1
<b>Diagnosis:</b>	<b>Timothy allergy</b>	
<b>Recommendation:</b>	<b>SIT with timothy pollen extract</b>	



Now 80 % of the clinicians suggested SIT with timothy extract only



**Fig. 4.** Clinically relevant sensitization to cross-reactive calcium-binding allergens. The patient lacks IgE antibodies and skin reactivity to Bet v 1 and Bet v 2 and birch pollen is therefore unlikely as a primary sensitizer. IgE reactivity to Phl p 1, Phl p 2 and Phl p 5 demonstrates sensitization to grass pollen and in addition there are IgE antibodies to the calcium-binding allergen Phl p 7. The immediate type skin reaction to birch pollen extract is apparently caused by IgE cross-reactivity between Phl p 7 and the homologous protein in birch pollen, Bet v 4.

## Specific allergen components

Indication  
for SIT  
with  
correspon  
ding  
extract

*Phl p 1*  
*Phl p 5*



*Art v 1*



*Bet v 1*



## Cross-reactive allergen components

*Profilin*

*Phl p 12*

*Polcalcin*

*Phl p 7*

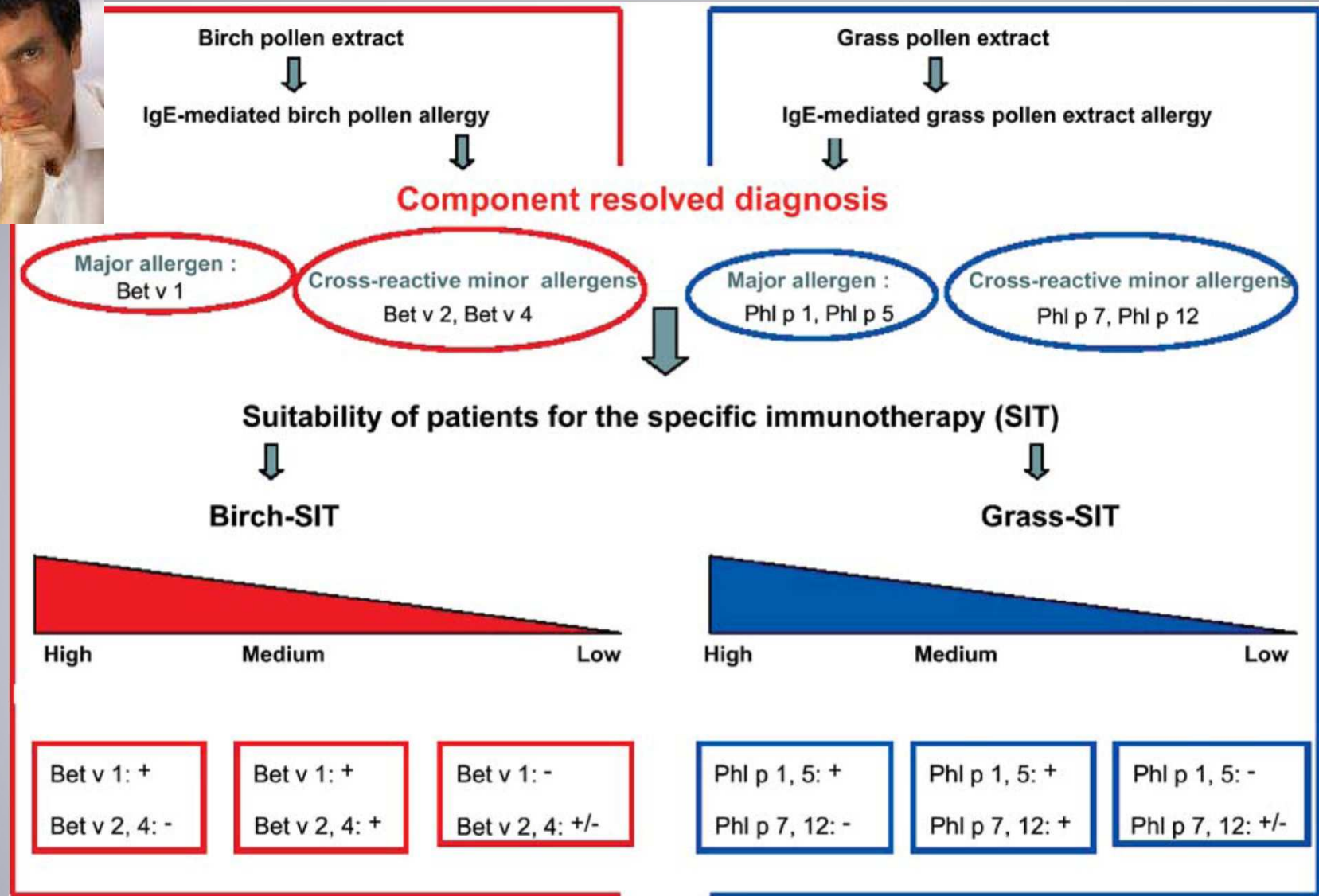
*Art v 4*

*Art v 5*

*Bet v 2*

*Bet v 4*

If only cross-reactive markers are identified  
further investigation is needed



Modified from Heiss S ....Valenta R.  
J Invest Dermatol. 1999

## The algorithm of efficiency prognosis of ASIT by grass pollens allergen extract

### Diagnosis of patient reactivity to the components:

Major pollen components:

Allergen g213- rPhl p 1, rPhl p 5b

Minor cross sensitive components:

Allergen g214 - rPhl p 7, rPhl p 12

<b>ASIT efficiency</b>	rPhl p 1, 5 «+»	rPhl p 1, 5 «+»	rPhl p 1, 5 «-»
	rPhl p 7, 12 «-»	rPhl p 7, 12 «+»	rPhl p 7, 12 «+/-»
	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>

## The algorithm of efficiency prognosis of ASIT by tree pollens allergen extract

### Diagnosis of patient reactivity to the components:

Major pollen components:

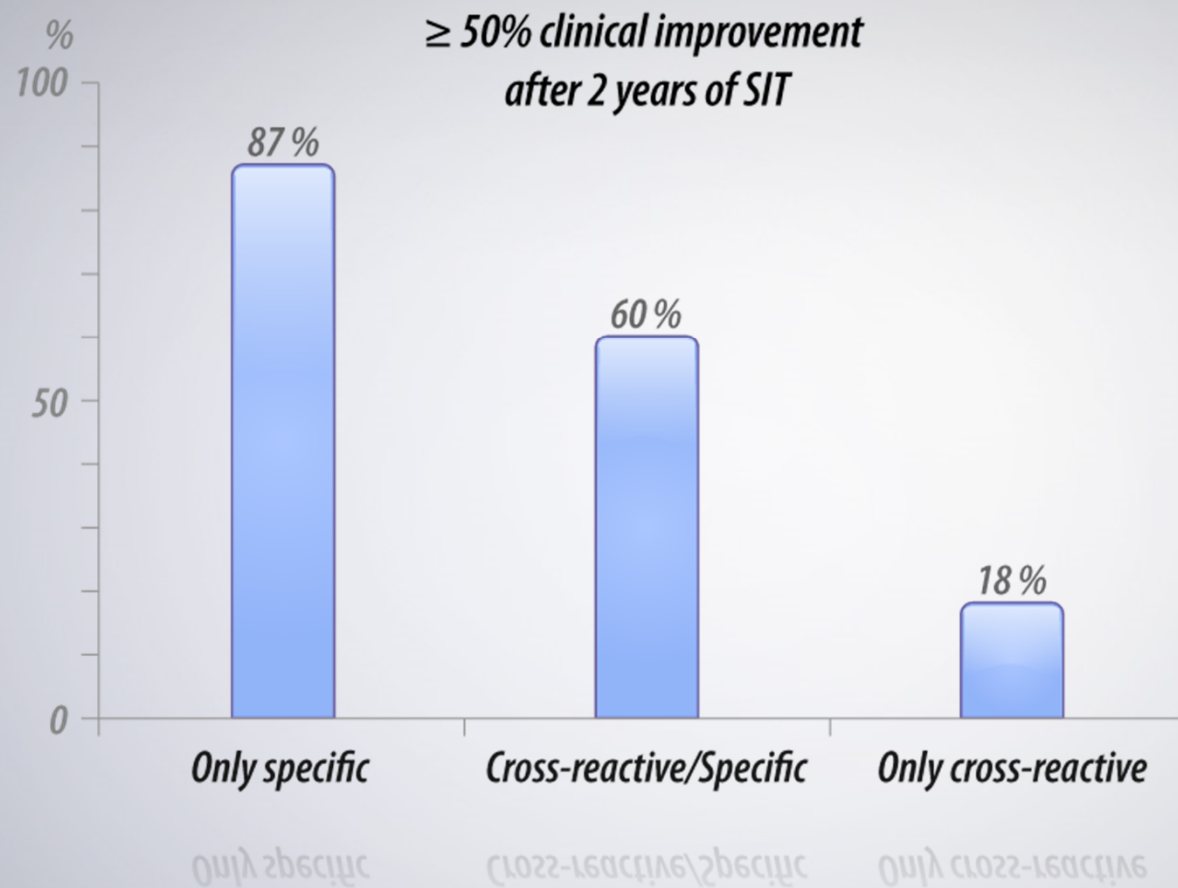
Allergen t215 - rBet v 1

Minor cross sensitive components:

Allergen t221 - rBet v 2, rBet v 4

<b>ASIT efficiency</b>	rBet v 1 «+»	rBet v 1 «+»	rBet v 1 «-»
	rBet v 2, rBet v 4 «-»	rBet v 2, rBet v 4 «+»	rBet v 2, rBet v 4 «+/-»
	<b>High</b>	<b>Medium</b>	<b>Low</b>

# Successful SIT relies on genuine sensitization



n=746 patients with birch and/or grass pollen SIT



# Molecular Allergology helps you to

- Assess the clinical **risk** for reaction
- Explain symptoms due to **cross-reactivity**
- Identify the right patients for **Specific Immunotherapy**

# Characteristics of main egg white components

Allergen	Common name	Constitute (%)	Heat-treated	Digestive enzyme-treated	Allergenic Activity	Test code #
Gal d 1	Ovomucoid	11%	Stable	Stable	+++	f233
Gal d 2	Ovalbumin	54%	Unstable	Unstable	++	f232
Gal d 3	Conalbumin	12%	Unstable	Unstable	+	f323
Gal d 4	Lysozyme	3.4%	Unstable	Unstable	++	k208

Source: Benhamou AH, state of the art for egg allergy, Allergy 2010, 65:283–289.



# Common clinical practice

<b>Patient</b>	<b>Elin, 5 years</b>	<b>Nour, 5 years</b>
<b>Previous</b>		
<b>At 7 months</b>		
<i>Anamnesis</i>	Eczema	Eczema
<b>At 2 years</b>		
<i>Anamnesis</i>	Urticaria, asthma	Urticaria, asthma
<i>SPT to egg</i>	+5	+4
<b>Diagnosis</b>	Egg allergy	Egg allergy
<b>Advice</b>	Avoid egg	Avoid egg
<b>At 5 years</b>		
<i>sIgE to egg</i>	25 kU <sub>A</sub> /l	20 kU <sub>A</sub> /l
<i>Food challenge</i>	No symptoms	Urticaria, cough, rhinitis
<b>Diagnosis</b>	Tolerant to egg	Egg allergy



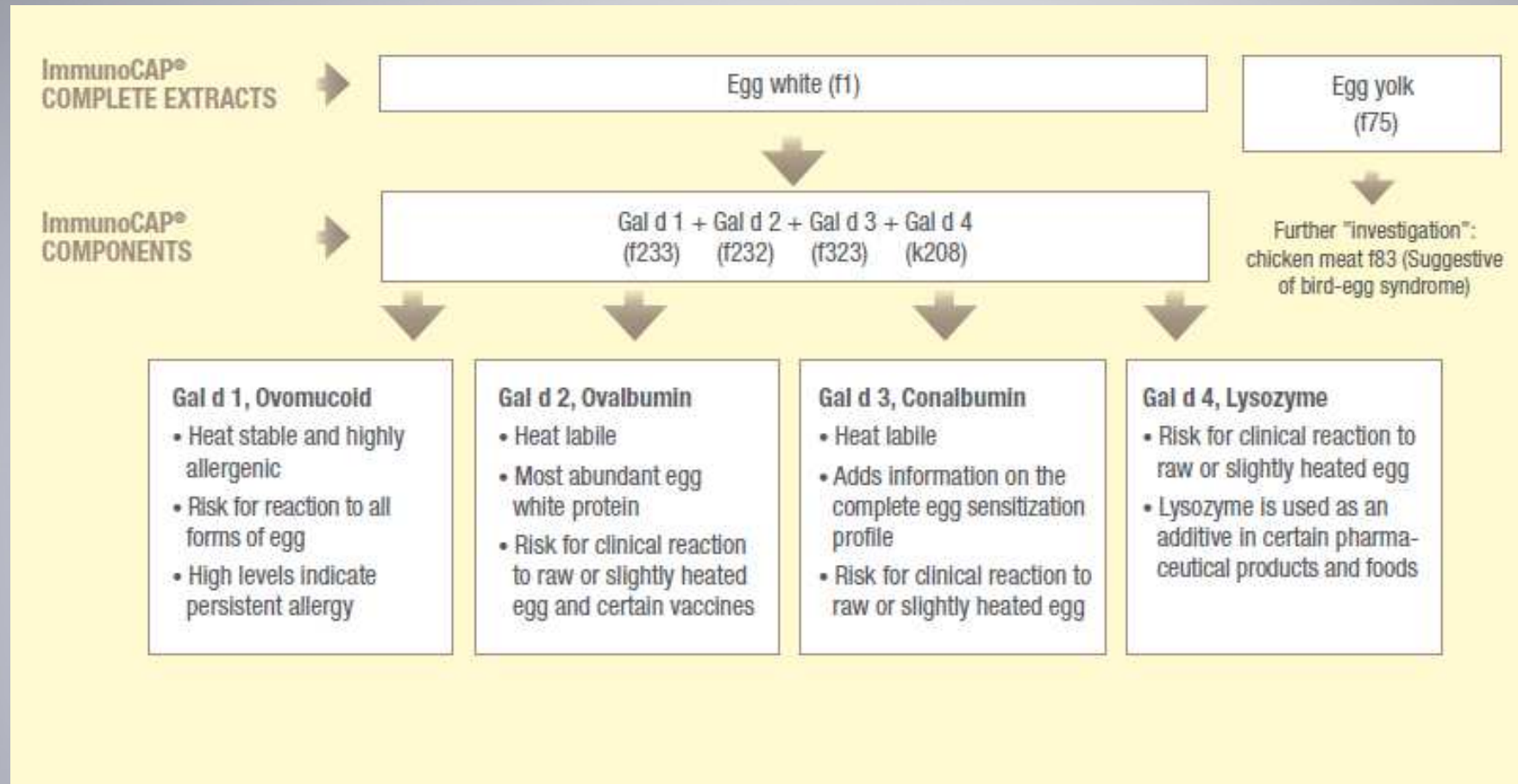
# Using components in clinical practice

<b>Patient</b>	<b>Elin, 5 years</b>	<b>Nour, 5 years</b>
<b>Previous</b>		
<b>At 7 months</b>		
<i>Anamnesis</i>	Eczema	Eczema
<b>At 2 years</b>		
<i>Anamnesis</i>	Urticaria, asthma	Urticaria, asthma
<i>SPT to egg</i>	+5	+4
<i>slgE to egg</i>	25 kU <sub>A</sub> /l	20 kU <sub>A</sub> /l
<i>slgE to Ovomucoid</i>	0.4 kU <sub>A</sub> /l	12 kU <sub>A</sub> /l
<b>Diagnosis</b>	Tolerance likely Low risk for reactions	Egg allergy
<b>Advice</b>	Try cooked egg	Avoid egg



Improved diagnoses and altered advice

## Recommended test profile

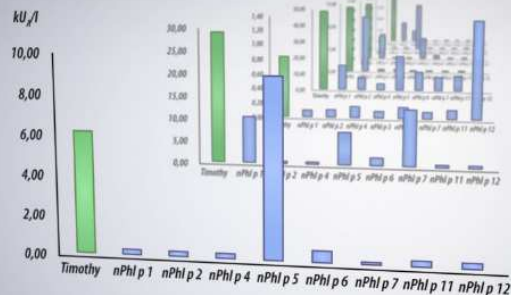


# Better characterization of egg allergic patients

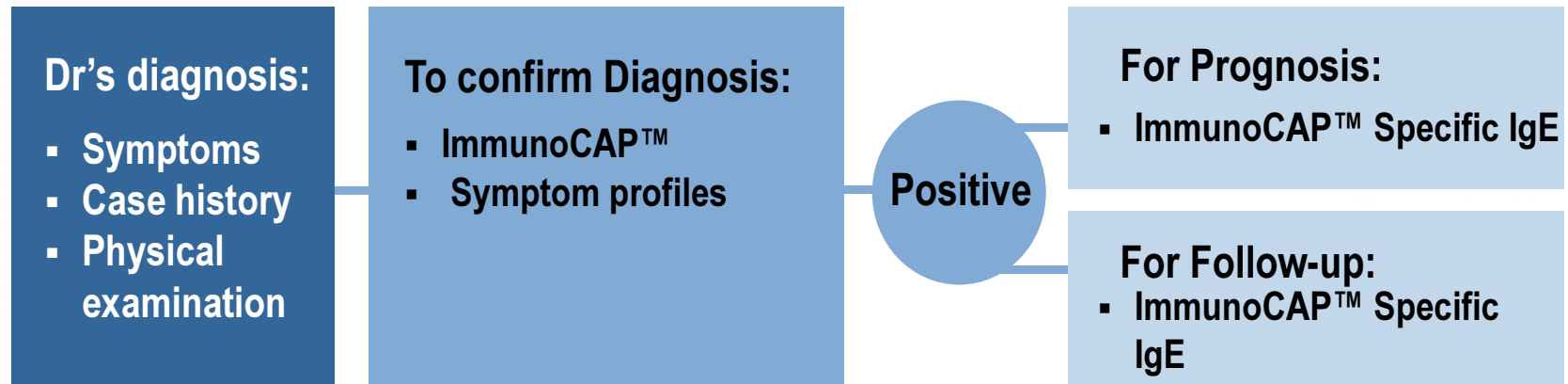
- Component testing helps in identifying children that are likely to outgrow their egg allergy; by following Gal d 1 IgE levels over time tolerance development may be detected.
- Low levels of specific IgE antibodies to Gal d 1 in early infancy suggest a good prognosis for outgrowing the egg allergy.
- In cases of low levels to Gal d 1, sensitization to egg components Gal d 2, Gal d 3 and/or Gal d 4 can cause clinical reactions to raw and slightly heated egg.
- Egg allergic patients sensitized to Gal d 2 may experience allergic reactions upon influenza and Yellow Fever vaccinations.
- Egg allergic patients with specific IgE antibodies to Gal d 4 may react when unexpectedly exposed to egg lysozyme in hidden forms in pharmaceutical products and foods.

# Molecular Allergology helps you to

- Assess the clinical **risk** for reaction
- Explain symptoms due to **cross-reactivity**
- Identify the right patients for **Specific Immunotherapy**



# Allergy test strategy





# A WAO - ARIA - GA2LEN consensus document on molecular-based allergy diagnostics

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