

What is Allergy Testing and Immunotherapy?

Allergy Testing is a smart solution for allergy sufferers. Over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription allergy medications can ease your symptoms but they often have significant side effects. Here at Agape Ear, Nose, Throat and Allergy Clinic, we provide unique custom-formulated antigen therapies that can help desensitize you to many of the pollens, molds and other triggers that cause your symptoms and make you uncomfortable. This desensitization therapy can allow you to be around those allergens without the common allergic reactions and symptoms. With minimal continued maintenance usage, these medications may last you a lifetime and provide a better quality of life for you.

Skin testing is the oldest, most reliable and painless form of allergy testing. It has been used for over 100 years. Skin testing continues to be the “gold standard” for diagnosing allergic disease. A tiny comb gently scratches or abrades the skin surface. After the test is performed, it takes only about 15 minutes to develop. A positive test will appear as a raised, red itchy bump on the skin, like a mosquito bite.

Adults and children over the age of two can be tested for allergies. This is especially helpful for patients who suffer with asthma, allergic pneumonia, conjunctivitis (pink eye), undiagnosed cough, dermatitis (skin irritation), insect allergy, rhinitis, sinusitis, urticaria (hives) and angioedema (similar to hives, but beneath the skin).

You will be tested for the 50 most geographically specific allergens in your area. We will test for products from dust mites, proteins from pet hair and dander, trees, grass and weed pollen, molds and cockroach droppings.

Immunotherapy is a form of treatment aimed at decreasing your sensitivity to substances called allergens. It involves introducing increasing amounts of an allergen to a patient over several months. We custom-formulate every single dosage of our allergy medications specifically for the individual patient.