

Natural rubber latex allergy

Occupational Environment Medicine, 2002; 59:419-424.

Alenius H.
Turjanmaa K.
Palosuo T.

Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, Finland
University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland
National Institute of Public Health, Helsinki, Finland.

The authors the status of latex allergy, and described the IgE binding properties of 11 identified latex allergens found in raw latex, and their specificity to various groups of sensitive individuals. Depending on the processing conditions employed during manufacturing, the amount of residual allergen/proteins among the products can vary as much as 3000 fold.

With regards to cross reactivity with food allergens, the authors introduced the term "latex fruit syndrome". At least a part of such cross reactivity between NRL and various fruits is based on structural homolog between hevein and hevein-like domains of plant class I chitinase. Besides that, only little is known.

The authors believed that with substantial reduction in NRL allergen exposure may be achieved by the use of low allergen NRL gloves.