

Aspirin-Exacerbated Respiratory Disease

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Adverse reaction to aspirin

- Mitteilung über einen Fall von Nebenwirkung des Aspirin
 - “Communication of a case of the side effects of aspirin”

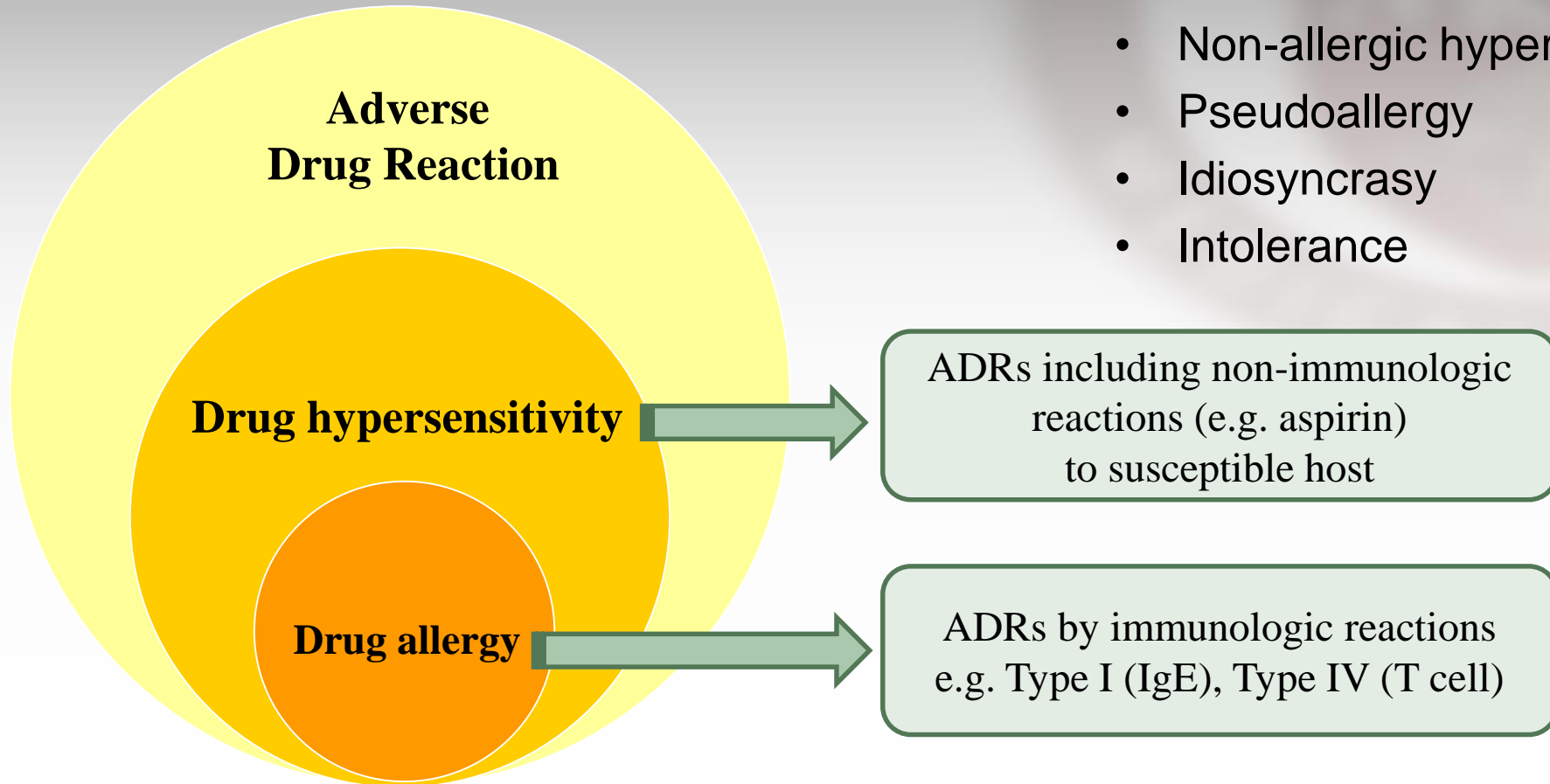
- Samter disease

Concerning the nature of intolerance to aspirin

Max Samter, M.D., and Ray F. Beers, Jr., M.D.,** Chicago, Ill.*

- Samter's triad (=Triad asthma, ASA triad)
 - Asthma
 - Nasal polyp
 - Aspirin intolerance

Concept of drug hypersensitivity



NSAID hypersensitivity and AERD

Table 1 Classification of hypersensitivity reactions to ASA and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) (Modified from [3])

Timing of reaction	Clinical manifestation	Type of reaction	Underlying disease	Putative mechanism
Acute (immediate to several hours after exposure)	Rhinitis/asthma	Cross-reactive	Asthma/rhinosinusitis/nasal polyps	Inhibition of COX-1
	Urticaria/angioedema	Cross-reactive	Chronic urticaria	Inhibition of COX-1
	Urticaria/angioedema	Multiple NSAIDs-induced	No underlying chronic disease (in some patients, the reaction to NSAIDs may precede development of chronic urticaria)	Unknown Presumably related to COX-1 inhibition
	Urticaria/angioedema/anaphylaxis	Single drug-induced	Atopy Food allergy Drug allergy	IgE-mediated

Aspirin-Exacerbated Respiratory Disease

- Typical ASA triad
 - Chronic rhinosinusitis complicated by polyp formation
 - Moderate to severe bronchial asthma
 - Hypersensitivity reactions in response to aspirin and other NSAIDs
 - Acute dyspnea accompanied by nasal symptoms
- Aspirin-exacerbated respiratory disease (AERD)
 - Main mechanism: NSAID-induced acute respiratory reaction
 - Development of chronic intractable inflammation
 - Both lower and upper airway mucosa
 - Underlies chronicity of disease
 - Even in the absence of exposure to NSAID

Prevalence of AERD

- Varies depends on diagnostic method and patient factors
 - Widely underdiagnosed
 - Diverse diagnostic method: history, provocation test (oral / nasal / bronchial)
- Among Asthma
 - 4.3% ~ 12% in various populations
 - 7% of adults with asthma, 14% of patients with severe asthma
 - 21.1% for adult, 5% for children in systematic review of 15 studies
- 30 ~ 40% among CRS and/or NP

Allergy 2003;58:1064-6.

Thorax 2002;57:569-74.

NEJM 2016;374;5

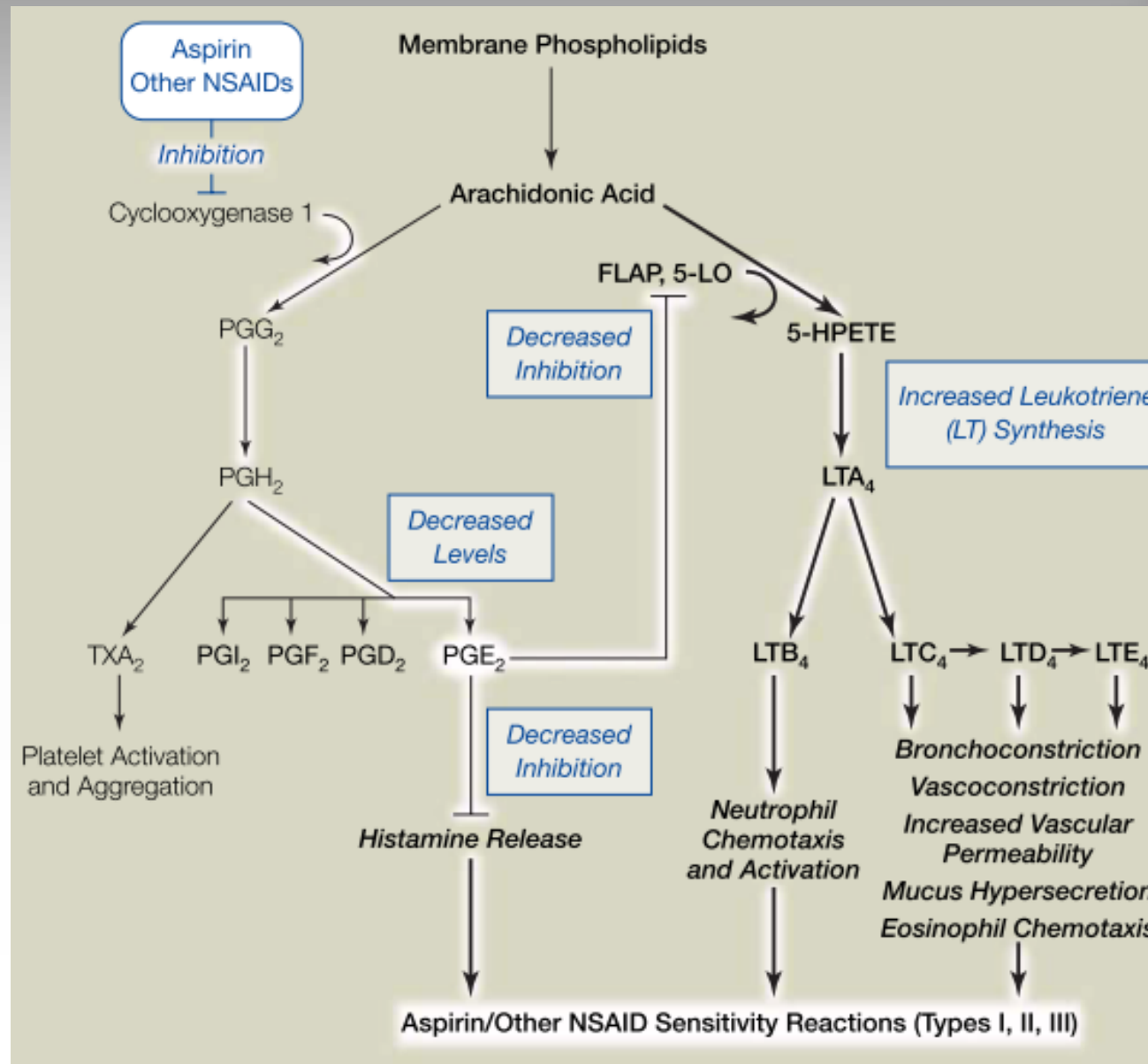
BMJ 2004;328:434.

Am J Rhinol 1987;1:119-26

Pathogenesis of AERD

- Cyclooxygenase pathway
 - Dysregulated function of **5-Lipoxygenase**
 - **Cysteinyl-leukotrienes** → bronchoconstriction, vascular leak, and mucous secretion
 - Amplify **eosinophilic** inflammation and **mast cell** activation
- Mediators involved in AERD
 - Both the blood and sinonasal tissues
 - Nasal and bronchial secretion

Cyclooxygenase pathway



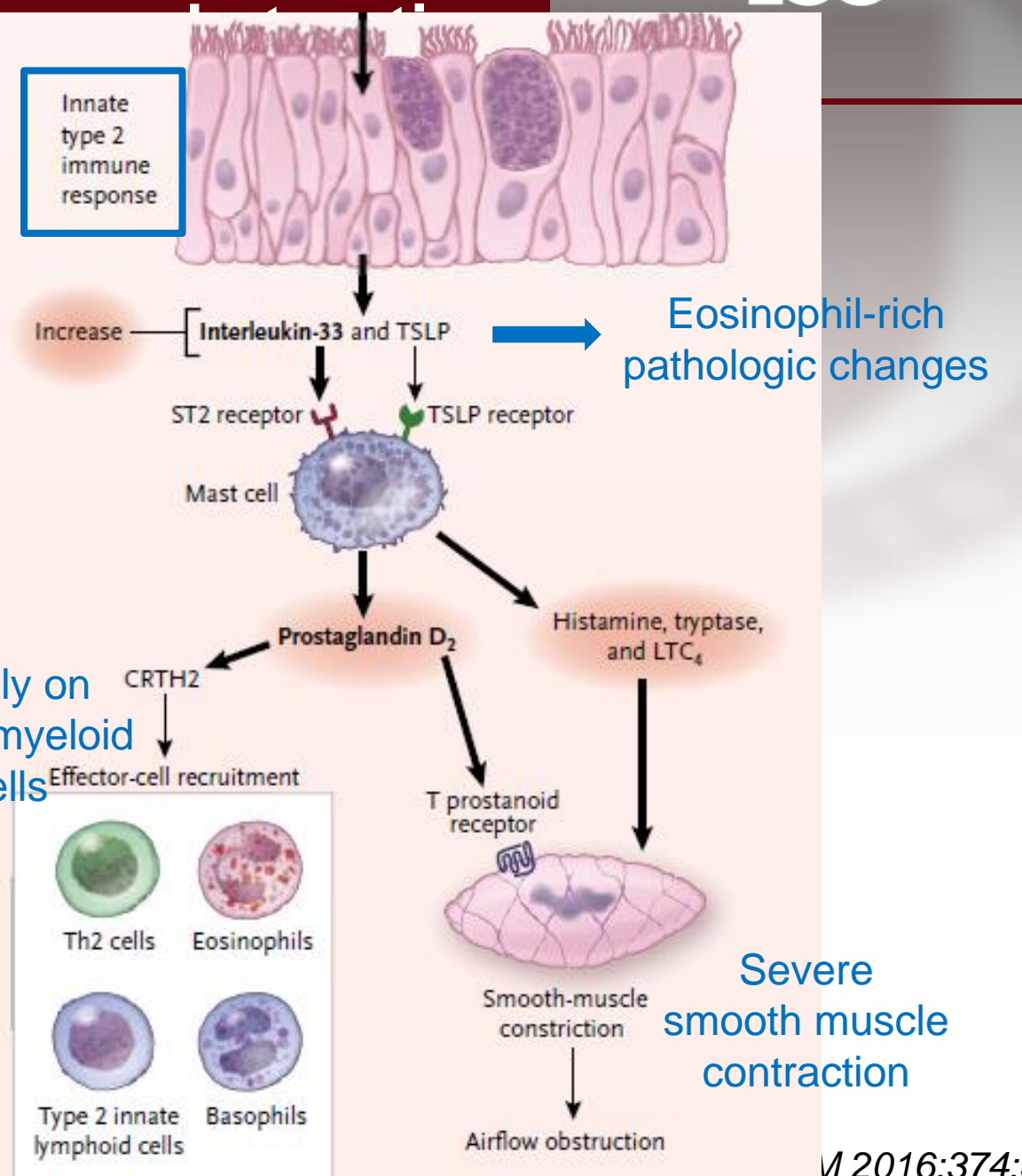
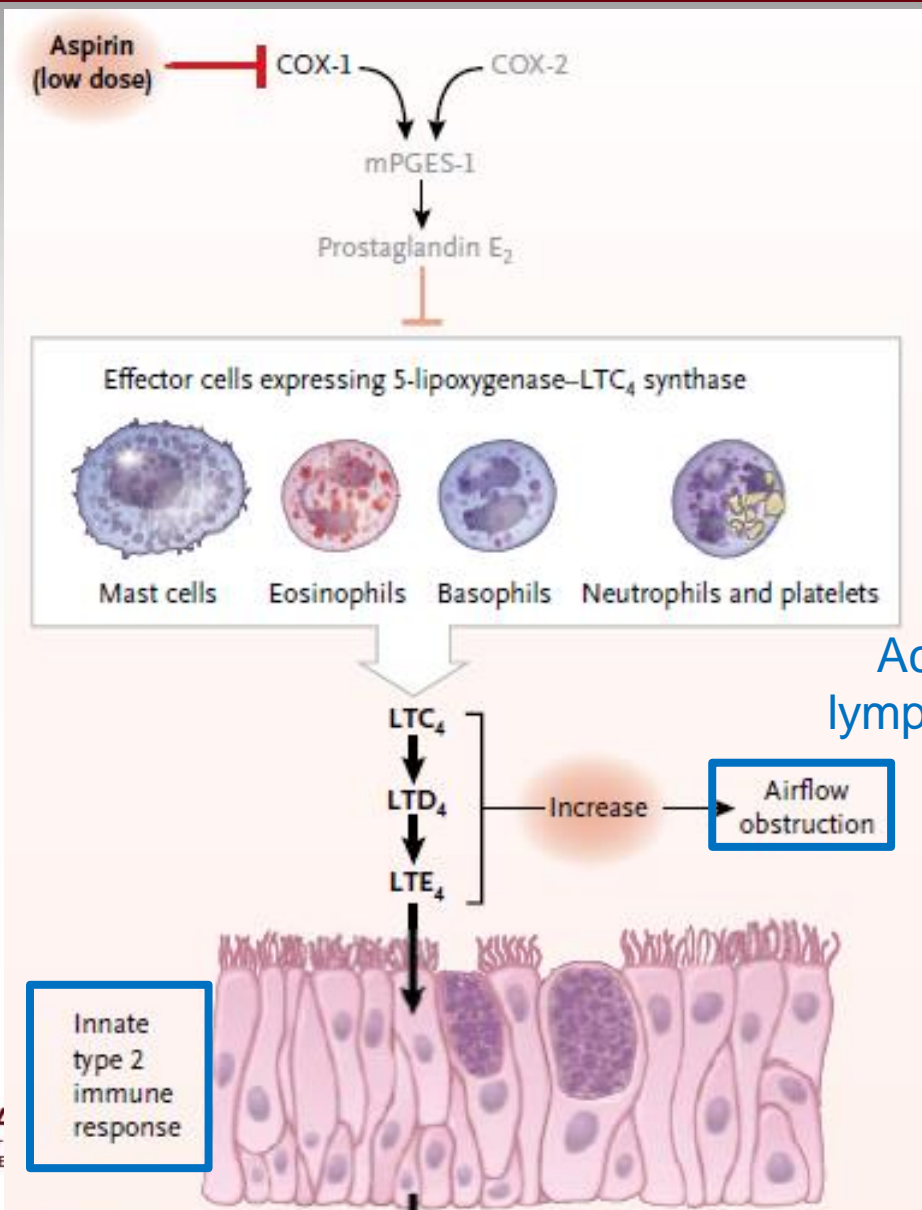
- Local deficiency in PGE₂ synthesis in NP epithelial cells and bronchial fibroblasts
- Inhalation of PGE₂ or oral misoprostol → prevents ASA-induced bronchoconstriction

JAMA 2004;292;24:3017-3023

Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2000;161:391-8.

Am J Respir Crit Care Med 1996;153:567-71

Cyclooxygenase pathway and air



Acting directly on lymphoid and myeloid effector cells

Eosinophil-rich pathologic changes

Severe smooth muscle contraction

Mediators involving AERD

- Release of both **mast cell** and **eosinophil**-specific mediators
 - Tryptase, histamine, PGD₂
 - Eosinophil cationic protein (ECP)
- After aspirin challenge
 - Release of cysteinyl leukotrienes into nasal secretions or induced sputum
 - PGD₂ metabolite from mast cell increase in urine after aspirin challenge
 - Mobilization of eosinophil progenitor cells from BM

Chronic airway inflammation in AERD

- Eosinophilic inflammation
 - High degree of tissue eosinophilia and increased ECP release
 - Increased IL-5, GM-CSF, RANTES
 - Increased eosinophil activation and survival
- Mast cell activation
 - Increased mast cell density in NP mucosa
 - Greater number of CD45RO+ T cell

Chronic inflammation in the airways

- Arachidonic acid metabolites
 - PGE₂ deficiency / overproductions of Leukotriene

Abnormality	PBMC	Urine	Exhaled Air	Saliva	Tissue
Decreased production of PGE ₂	±	—	—	—	NPEC± BF+
Decreased expression of PGE ₂ receptors	—	—	—	—	NP±
Decreased expression of COX-2	No	—	—	—	NP± BEC+
Increased generation of cysteinyl leukotrienes	±	+	±	+	NP±
Increased expression of Cys-LT ₁ receptors	—	—	—	—	NP+
Increased LTC ₄ synthase expression	+	—	—	—	BM+ NP+
Increased 5-LO expression	—	—	—	—	NPEC+
Decreased lipoxin generation	±	—	—	—	NPEC+

Genetic mechanisms

Gene	SNP(s)	Clinical Phenotype	Mechanism
LTC4S	-444A>C	High genotype frequency of C allele compared with A allele	C allele may be the risk allele owing to overproduction of cys-LTs
CYSLTR1	-634C>T, -475A>C, -336A>G	ht2(TCG) showed higher frequency in AERD and higher promoter activity	Higher CysLTR1 mRNA expression may be responsible for pathogenesis
CYSLTR2	—	Frequencies of rare allele increased in AERD, with decrease in FEV ₁ after aspirin provocation	Elevation of cys-LT production
CRTH2	—	-466T allele had higher frequency in AERD and increased serum and cellular eotaxin-2 production and lower mRNA expression	-466T allele may be the risk allele by activation of eosinophils
CCR3	-520T>C	Frequencies of rare genotypes were higher in AERD, and -520G allele showed higher promoter activity	Higher mRNA expression of CCR3 may cause eosinophil activation
MS4A2R	E237G	FcER1b -109T allele had higher frequency and high promoter activity	Increased mRNA expression of -109T allele may cause mast cell activation mediated by MS4A2R receptor
ACE	-262A>T, -115T>C	Frequencies of the rare alleles were higher in AERD; -262T had lower promoter activity; and reduction in FEV ₁ was seen after aspirin provocation	Downregulation of ACE expression
IL4	-589T>C	The frequency of rare alleles was higher in AERD; -589C had enhanced promoter and transcriptional activity induced by aspirin	Enhanced IL-4 activity with aspirin exposure

Environmental trigger

- Role of environment
 - Airway disease precedes development of hypersensitivity to ASA.
 - Complete avoidance of NSAIDs does not lead to clinical improvement.
 - Cross-reactive respiratory-type hypersensitivity reactions to ASA do not occur in healthy persons without rhinosinusitis / asthma
- Suggested mechanism
 - Human rhinovirus
 - Staphylococcal enterotoxin

Clinical feature

- More common in women
- Non-atopic status is more prevalent
- Usually begins during adulthood
 - Rhinosinusitis, commonly with polyposis → Asthma → Aspirin hypersensitivity
- Symptom and signs
 - Moderate to severe asthma with chronic persistent rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps
 - Intense eosinophil infiltrations in upper and lower airway mucosa
 - NSAIDs intolerance
 - Bronchospasm of variable severity accompanied by rhinitis symptoms and ocular injection.
 - Can be combined with chronic urticaria with or without angioedema and/or anaphylaxis.
 - Nausea and stomach pain occur only occasionally

Yonsei Med J 50(6): 744-750, 2009

Allergy 2011;66:818–829

Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 2002;89:474-8

What matters?

- Aggressive, persistent nature of the disease
- Requirement for high-dose glucocorticoids to manage the asthma
- Frequent recurrence of nasal polyps after surgery

AERD and severity of asthma

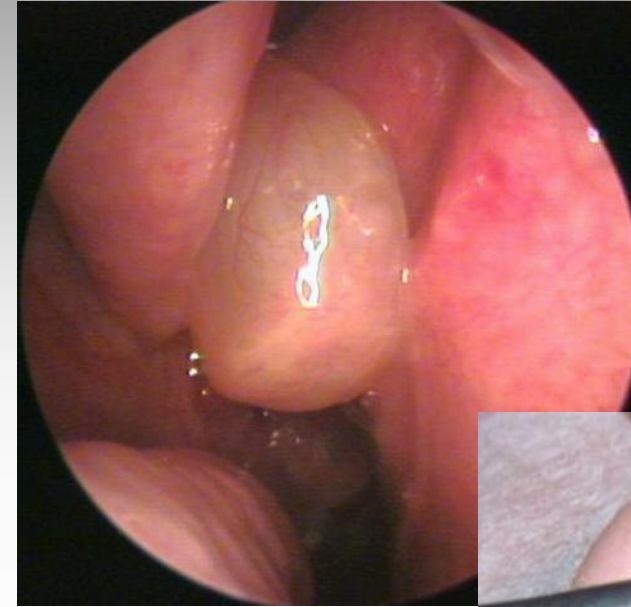
- Significant risk factor for severe chronic asthma and near-fatal asthma

	Non-aspirin-sensitive asthma (n = 2848)	AERD (n = 459)	P value*
Physician assessment of "severe" asthma, % (n)	49 (1378)	66 (304)	<.001
History of intubation, % (n)	11 (322)	20 (92)	<.001
Unscheduled office visit in previous 3 mo, % (n)	44 (1264)	54 (249)	.001
Emergency department visit in previous 3 mo, % (n)	13 (372)	18 (81)	.017
Hospitalized in previous 3 mo, % (n)	5 (131)	6 (29)	.068
Corticosteroid burst in previous 3 mo, % (n)	46 (1319)	56 (258)	<.001
Use of high-dose inhaled corticosteroids, % (n)	26 (727)	34 (157)	<.001
Use of leukotriene modifier, % (n)	57 (1615)	67 (308)	<.001

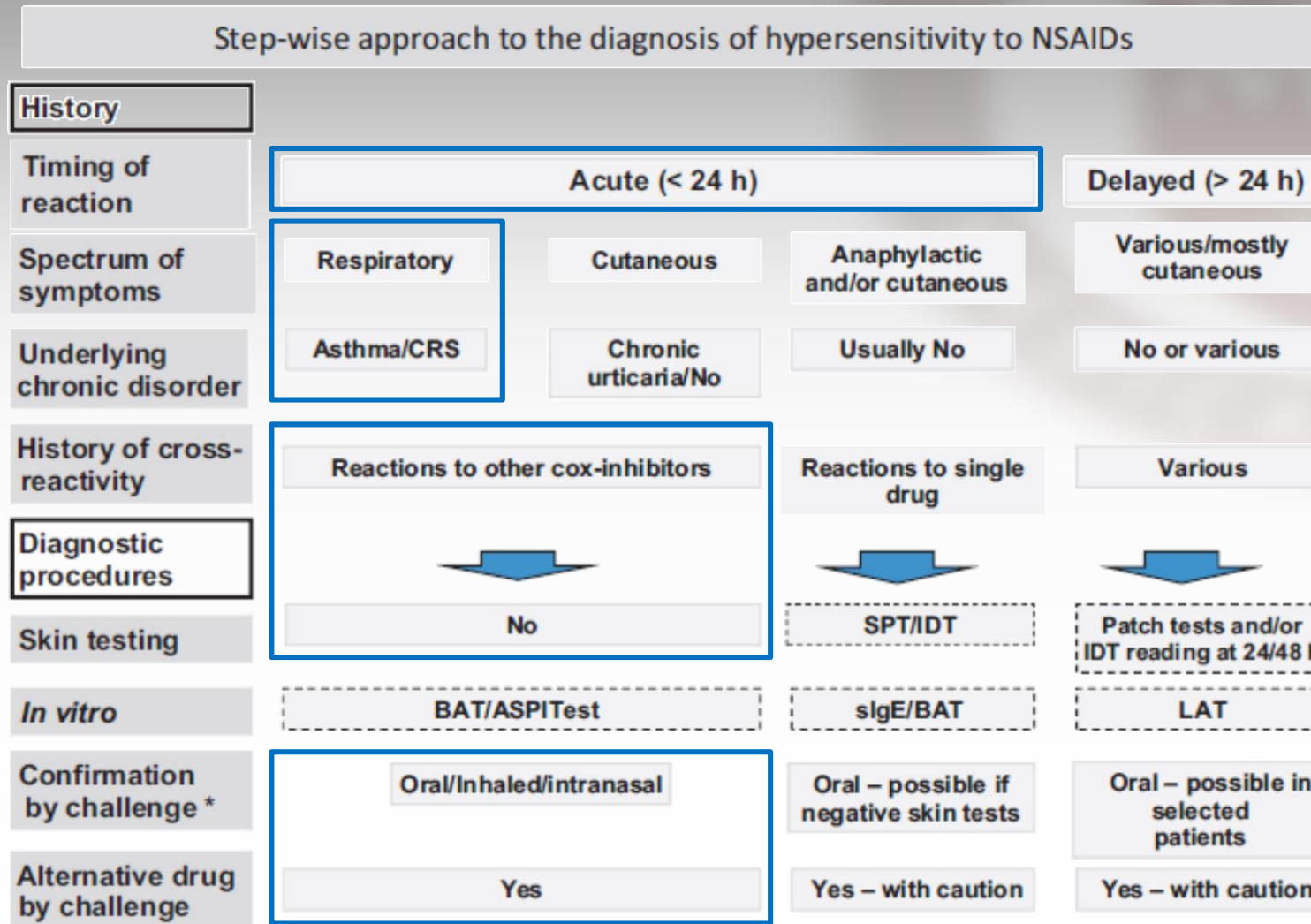
	Non-aspirin-sensitive asthma (n = 2848)	AERD (n = 459)	P value
Unadjusted results*			
Prebronchodilator	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	
FEV ₁ (%)	75.2 (22.5)	70.7 (21.2)	<.001
FVC (%)	86.1 (20.0)	82.6 (19.5)	.001
FEV ₁ /FVC	0.71 (0.11)	0.70 (0.12)	.107
Postbronchodilator	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	
FEV ₁ (%)	79.9 (22.0)	75.3 (21.0)	<.001
FVC (%)	90.2 (19.1)	86.7 (19.2)	<.001
FEV ₁ /FVC	0.72 (0.12)	0.71 (0.12)	.085
Adjusted results†			
Postbronchodilator	Mean (SE)	Mean (SE)	
FEV ₁ (%)	80.0 (0.4)	75.3 (1.0)	<.001
FVC (%)	90.2 (0.3)	87.2 (0.9)	.002
FEV ₁ /FVC	0.72 (0.002)	0.71 (0.005)	.005


AERD and severity of CRS

- More severe..
 - Polypoid hypertrophy of sinus mucosa
 - Severity of inflammation
- Nasal polyps undergo rapid regrowth
 - 5~6 fold more sinus infection per year
 - 3 fold more sinus surgery or polypectomies per patients



Step-wise approach to NSAID hypersensitivity



 Procedures with limited validity and only for specific NSAIDs

Diagnosis of AERD

- Diagnosis of Asthma, CRS with/without NP, NSAID intolerance
- History of adverse reactions precipitated by ASA or other NSAIDs
 - 50% do not have a definitive history of adverse reaction to ASA or NSAID
- The diagnosis of AERD can be definitively established only through aspirin-provocation challenges
 - Oral / Bronchial inhalation / Nasal inhalation
 - Intravenous (?)

Aspirin challenge test (provocation test)

- Instruction
 - Hospital setting and emergency resuscitative equipment
 - Direct supervision of a **physician experienced** in the performance of such testing.
 - Patients should have an open intravenous line in place
 - **Asthma should be stable.**
 - **Withdrawal of antiasthma drugs** is needed
 - Regular OCS <10mg prednisolone or equivalent
 - The dose of bronchial and nasal corticosteroids should be as low as possible
 - Skin tests are not indicated
 - (Should be preceded by a placebo challenge)
- Contraindication (relative)
 - Oral and inhalation challenges in patients with unstable asthma
 - FEV1 < 70% or 1.5L

Oral challenge test

- Gold standard for diagnosis of AERD

- Time- and labor-intensive

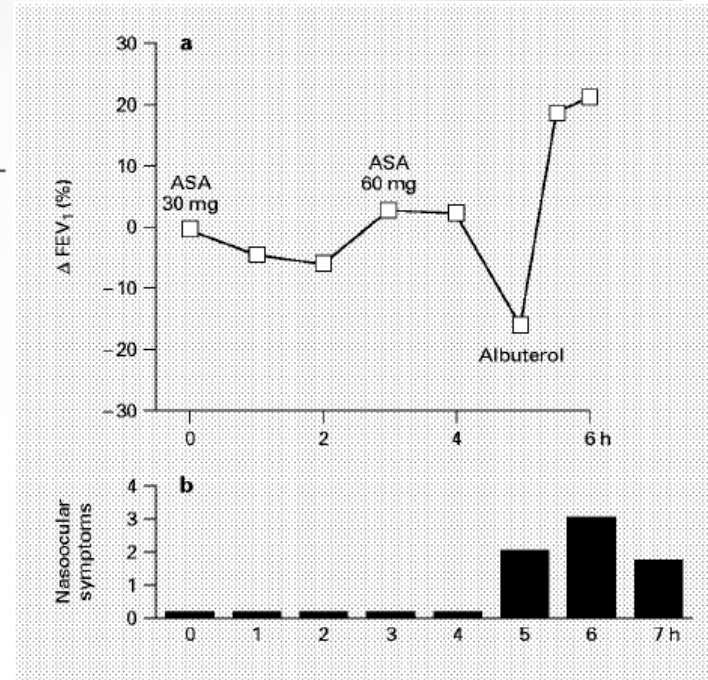
Table 1. Single-blind 3-Day Oral ASA Challenge*

Time	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
7:00 AM	Placebo	ASA 30 mg	ASA 100–150 mg
10:00 AM	Placebo	ASA 45–60 mg	ASA 150–325 mg
1:00 PM	Placebo	ASA 60–100 mg	ASA 325–650 mg

- Criteria for positive response

Table 2. Types of Respiratory Responses to Oral ASA Challenges

- Classic reaction:** decline of 20% or more in FEV₁ values and a naso-ocular reaction
- Pure lower:** decline of 20% or more in FEV₁ values without naso-ocular reaction
- Upper airway only:** naso-ocular reaction alone
- Partial asthma:** declines in FEV₁ between 15 and 20% combined with naso-ocular reaction
- Laryngospasm:** crowing sounds in neck (flow volume curve: inspiratory loop flat and notched)
- Negative:** if up to ASA 650 mg was administered without any respiratory reaction



Risk of oral challenge test for aspirin in AERD

TABLE I. OAC reactions

	n (%)
Naso-ocular	188 (90)
Bronchial	74 (35)
15% to 19% decrease in FEV ₁	27 (13)
20% to 29% decrease in FEV ₁	28 (13)
≥30% decrease in FEV ₁	19 (9)
Gastrointestinal	49 (23)
Cutaneous	20 (10)
Laryngeal	16 (8)
Negative OAC	17 (8)

- Total 210 patients
- 1.4% (3 patients) experienced systemic reactions including hypotension
- Safe: Improves after proper treatment
- Should be cautious in outpatient setting

TABLE II. Relationship of OAC bronchial reaction severity to historical aspirin/NSAID reaction treatment location

OAC bronchial reaction severity	Historical reaction treatment location		
	Home (n = 63), n (%)	ED (n = 101),* n (%)	Hospital (n = 46), † n (%)
<20% decrease in FEV ₁	53 (84)	79 (78)	31 (67)
20% to 29% decrease in FEV ₁	5 (8)	14 (14)	9 (20)
≥30% decrease in FEV ₁	5 (8)	8 (8)	6 (13)

Diagnosis: Other challenge test

- Bronchial challenge test

Conc. of L-ASA (M)	No. of Inhalations	Inhaled ASA Dose (mg)	Cumulative ASA Dose (mg)
0.1	1	0.18	0.18
0.1	2	0.36	0.54
0.1	5	0.90	1.44
0.1	13	2.34	3.78
1	4	7.20	10.98
1	9	16.2	27.18
2	11	39.60	66.78
2	32	115.20	181.98

- Nasal challenge test
- Intravenous challenge test

Management

- Asthma
 - Should follow asthma guidelines
 - **Leukotriene antagonist**
 - Montelukast, zafirlukast, pranlukast
 - Improved asthma control and pulmonary function
 - Also attenuated nasal reactions
- CRS and Nasal polyposis
 - Difficult to treat: less response to medical & surgical treatment
 - **High dose INS** + prn) broad-spectrum antibiotics
 - **Burst of systemic corticosteroid**: “medical polypectomy”
 - **Leukotriene antagonists**
 - Decongestants and antihistamines

Prevention

- Alternative analgesics

- Cross reactivity

- Paracetamol 7%, 400mg ibuprofen 98%, 100mg naproxen 100%, 40mg diclofenac 93%

- Education is utmost important !!

Group A: NSAIDs cross-reacting in majority of hypersensitive patients (60–100%)

Ibuprofen
 Indomethacin
 Sulindac
 Naproxen
 Fenoprofen
 Meclofenamate
 Ketorolac

Etololac
 Diclofenac
 Ketoprofen
 Flurbiprofen
 Piroxicam
 Nabumetone
 Mefenamic acid

Group B: NSAIDs cross-reacting in minority of hypersensitive patients (2–10%)

Rhinitis/asthma type

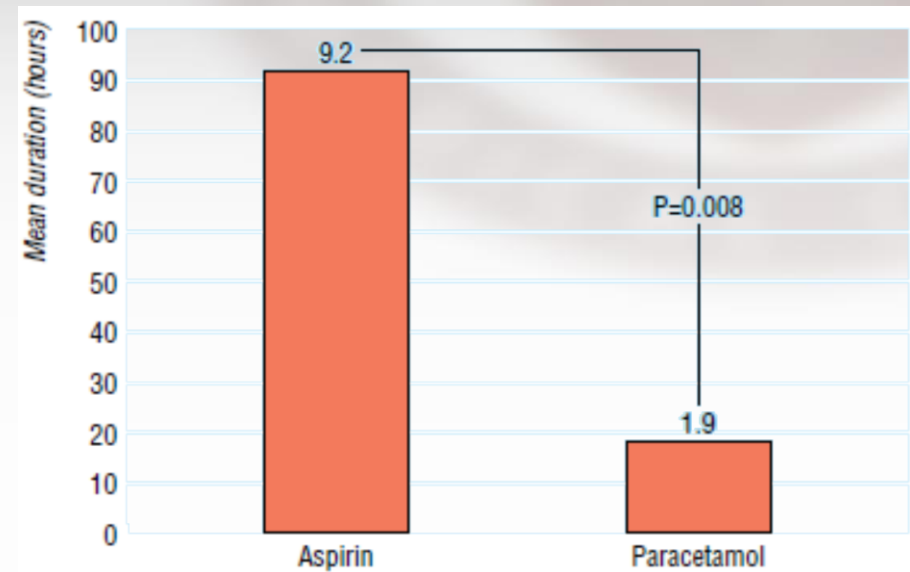
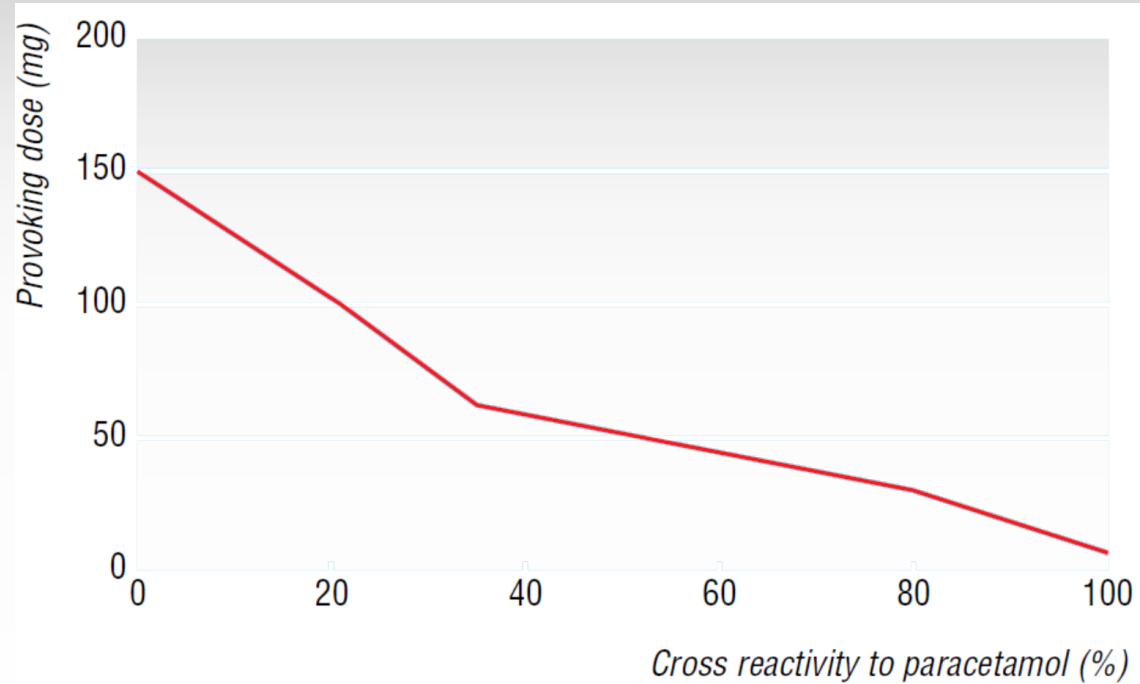
acetaminophen (doses below 1000 mg)
 meloxicam
 nimesulide

Group C: NSAIDs well tolerated by all hypersensitive patients*

Rhinitis/asthma type

selective cyclooxygenase inhibitors (celecoxib, parvocoxib)
 trisalicylate, salsalate

Aspirin and acetaminophen



Aspirin desensitization

- Initial desensitization with incremental doses of aspirin followed by daily high dose therapy
 - Nearly all patients with AERD can be desensitized to aspirin
 - Clinically very effective
 - Cost-effective and safe
 - Produce definite improvement in both upper and lower respiratory tract symptom
- Indication
 - Intractable symptoms despite medical treatment
 - Recurrent nasal polyps requiring multiple surgeries
 - Frequent or daily systemic corticosteroids are required to control nasal symptoms and/or asthma
 - Additional medical indication for aspirin
 - Coronary disease, Rheumatic diseases,, etc

Yonsei Med J 2009;50(6): 744-750

Allergy Asthma Immunol Res. 2011;3(1):3-10.

Allergy Asthma Immunol Res. 2016;8(4):298-304

Effect of aspirin desensitization in AERD

TABLE I. Analysis of changes in markers of clinical disease during the first 6 months of treatment with aspirin desensitization (n = 126)

TABLE II. Analysis of changes in markers of clinical disease after greater than 1 year of treatment with aspirin desensitization (n = 126)

TABLE III. Analysis of treatment with corticosteroids before, at 6 months after, and greater than 1 year after starting aspirin desensitization therapy

TABLE IV. Number of patients who were taking systemic corticosteroids and LTMDs at baseline, at 6 months, and during the last year of aspirin desensitization treatment (n = 126)

	Baseline	6 mo after aspirin treatment	P value	Last year of aspirin treatment	P value
Not receiving prednisone	39 (31%)	62 (49%)	<.0001	84 (66%)	<.0001
Bursts of prednisone	55 (44%)	37 (29%)	<.0001	17 (13%)	<.0001
Alternate-day prednisone	2 (1%)	1 (1%)	NS	1 (1%)	NS
Daily prednisone	30 (24%)	26 (21%)	NS	24 (19%)	.03
Not receiving any LTMDs	102 (81%)	88 (70%)	.001	63 (50%)	<.0001
Zafirlukast use	7 (6%)	16 (13%)	.001	20 (16%)	<.0001
Montelukast use	13 (10%)	18 (14%)	.01	40 (32%)	<.0001
Zileuton use	4 (3%)	4 (3%)	NS	3 (2%)	NS

Aspirin desensitization protocols

- Target dose: 325mg or 650mg twice daily

Time (mins)	Dosage	Cumulative dosage
0		
30		
60		
90		
120		

Time (min)	Aspirin dose (mg)	Cumulative aspirin dose (mg)
0	1	1
30	2	3
60	4	7
90	8	15
	16	31
	32	63
	64	127
	125	252
	250	502

Indications	Doses of aspirin [mg]	Dose interval	Success Rate, n (%) ^a	
			Success	Rate (%)
Silberman et al.	1 2 4 8 16 32 64 100	30 min	6/7	(86) ^b
Szczepanek, Steve	1 2 4 8 16 32 64 100	30 min		
Wong	0.1 0.3 1 3 10 20 40 81 162 243			
Schafer, Gore [9]	0.1 0.3 1 3 10 20 40 81 162 325			
Stevenson, Simon 'Scripps Clinic' [24]	20.25, 40.5, 60, 75, 81, 101.25, 162.5, 325	3 h		
Hope et al. [25]	30, 45, 60, 100, 150, 325, 650	3 h		

Protocol	Hypersensitivity Type	Dosing Interval	Aspirin Dose, mg	Success Rate, n (%) ^a
Silberman ²⁷ protocol 1	I III IV V	30 min	1 2 4 8 16 32 64 100	6/7 (86) ^b
Szczepanek ²² protocol 1 ^c				
Wong ²² protocol 2				
Wong ²² protocol 3				
Schafer, Gore [9]				
Stevenson, Simon 'Scripps Clinic' [24]	AERD			
Hope et al. [25]	AERD			

Patient No.	Dose (mg)*											
1	0.1	0.3	1	3	10	30	40	81	162	243		
2	0.1	0.3	1	3	10	20	40	81	162			
3	0.1	0.3	1	3	10	30	40	81	162			
4	0.1				10	20	40	81	162			
5					10	20	40	81	162			
6	0.1	0.3	1	3	10	20	40	81	162	325		
7†			1	3	10							
8-11	0.1	0.3	1	3	10	20	40	81	162	325		
P‡	0.1	0.3	1	3	10	20	40	81	(162)§	(325)§		

Aspirin Dose (mg)
1
5
10
20
40
100

Novel agents in AERD

- Anti-IgE monoclonal antibody
 - Several case reports and small study: Improve AERD symptoms
 - Mechanism of action is not clear: lowers LTE₄ activity?
- Anti-IL-5 monoclonal antibody
 - Although not a central mediator of AERD
 - Decrease nasal polyposis
- Anti-IL-4/IL-13, Anti-IL-33 monoclonal antibody / Anti-TSLP
 - Mediators of demonstrated role in AERD
 - No reports for now
- Immunotherapy
 - Not effective

Allergy Asthma Immunol Res. 2016;8(4):298-304

Journal of Asthma and Allergy 2016:9

J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2011;128(5):989–995

Summary

- Definition and prevalence
- Pathophysiology
- Clinical feature and importance
- Diagnosis
 - Challenge test
- Treatment options
 - Guideline-based therapy
 - Leukotriene antagonist
 - Aspirin desensitization
- Prevention

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