

Allergia alle proteine del lattice e percorsi di prevenzione

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SUMMARY

«Latex protein allergy and its prevention». Numerous studies and documents have been recently produced on the topic of latex allergy but the unpredictable nature of the clinical reactions and the widespread use of natural rubber products in health care has led to incorrect use due to inadequate risk assessment. This article is intended to supply a clinical and epidemiological outline of latex allergy and its management and prevention. The aim is to promote communication between specialists in various disciplines in order to protect patients and health care workers from the risk of latex allergy. The feasibility analysis of a latex-free stream in a hospital was made by a board composed of an allergist, occupational health physicians, a surgeon and an anaesthetician to evaluate the various phases of the project. The equipment available at the hospital (certified latex-free materials to equip pre and post operation trolleys, latex free gloves) and a correct work organization (definition and work procedures, check list of materials, alarm bracelet, warning signals) will make it possible to achieve a latex-free stream for symptomatic and sensitized patients at risk. The use of non-powdered gloves with low levels of protein residue, particularly in areas like operating theatres, can minimise the occurrence of sensitization to latex, protecting health care workers from serious consequences. Also, such measures reduce the cost of health surveillance, allow latex-safe areas to be maintained which can be inter-connected so that the best possible management of latex-allergic patients during hospitalization is ensured.

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