

Smooth Sailing News

Allergy Associates of the Palm Beaches, PA

(561) 626-2006 • www.pballergy.com

An Educational Affiliate of National Jewish Medical Health

Summer 2011

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Summer: Hurricane, Grass & Weed Season ...

While Summer brings heavy pollen to south Florida with increased allergy symptoms, even more important is Hurricane Season. The last few years have taught us that you must take adequate precautions. That includes having a month's supply of all medications on hand, having an emergency back up for electric nebulizers, having adequate oxygen supplies available, and having an emergency shelter reservation especially if special services (oxygen or electricity) are needed. You must call the Red Cross or Palm Beach County Emergency Management. **If you have questions, contact our office before the emergency arises.** There are several battery operated nebulizers available. Also, Radio Shack sells a DC inverter to use the nebulizer in a car cigarette lighter. In the last few years we have lost office phone service, electricity, and even cell phone service. **If this happens again, the closest emergency room may be the only source of help during a storm and it's aftermath.** We will all be trying to protect our families and trying to assure that our offices are safe and back to normal as soon as possible. Remember that our offices are forced to close when evacuation orders are given. We cannot work effectively without electricity and telephone service.

Research . . .

1. New IVIG study for patients with CUID or X-linked Agammaglobulin starting now.
2. New SCIG study for PID to start in next few months.
3. Severe chronic urticaria treatment with Xolair underway.

For further information or to become
a volunteer contact
Kelly Farnan or Danielle Eufrazio
at 561-626-4561 or 561-626-2006

New Drugs . . .

1. FDA removing 300 drugs.
2. Oravig antithrush...
3. Gammagard Liquid approved for subcutaneous use.

News and Notes...

New Publications by Dr. Stein:

- Pharmacokinetics of subcutaneous IgPro20 in patients with primary immunodeficiency. Clin Pharmacokinet. June 2011
- Efficacy, Safety, and Pharmacokinetics of a 10% Liquid Immune Globulin Preparation (GAMMAGARD LIQUID, 10%) Administered Subcutaneously in Subjects with Primary Immunodeficiency Disease. J Clin Immunol. June 2011
- Efficacy and Safety of a new Immunoglobulin G Product, Gammaplex® in Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases. Clin Exp Immunol. Dec 2010

AAAAI: American Academy of Allergy Asthma & Immunology: Dr. Stein's Abstracts:

The following articles can be found in The Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology, Vol. 127, No. 2, Feb. 2011.

- Pharmacokinetics (PK) of Human Immunoglobulin 10% Administered Subcutaneously Alone or Following Recombinant Human Hyaluronidase (RhUph20) in Primary Immunodeficiency Disease (PID) Patients.
- New Immune Globulin Subcutaneous (Human) 10% (IGSC) Product is Well Tolerated in Subjects with Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases (PID).
- Tolerability of Human Immunoglobulin 10% Administered Subcutaneously Following Administration of Recombinant Human Hyaluronidase (rHuPH20) in Primary Immunodeficiency Disease (PID) Patients.
- Subcutaneous IGG (SCIG) in Elderly.
- Pharmacokinetic Analysis (PK) of Immune Globulin Subcutaneous (Human), 10% (IGSC) Administered Intravenously or Subcutaneously in Subjects with Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases (PID).
- Efficacy, Safety, and Pharmacokinetics of 10% Liquid Immune Globulin Preparation (Gammagard Liquid, 10%) Administered Subcutaneous in Subjects with Primary Immunodeficiency Disease.
- Efficacy Analysis of Immune Globulin Subcutaneous (Human) 10% (IGSC) Administered Intravenously or Subcutaneously in Subjects with Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases (PID).

AAAAI: Dr. Koterba's Abstracts:

- Characterization of Specific Antibody Deficiency in Adults with Medically Refractory Chronic Rhinosinusitis.
- U.S. Clinical Experience with Priviligen®: A Retrospective Chart Review.
- Subcutaneous IgG (SCIG) in the Elderly.

Allergy Information Web sites for the latest information on allergies and asthma include:

www.theallergyreport.com
www.aaaai.org - (American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology).
www.aanma.org - (Allergy and Asthma Network-Mothers of Asthmatics).
www.acaai.org - (American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology).
www.amlungseff@aol.com - (American Lung Association).
www.info@faais.org - (Florida Allergy, Asthma, Immunology Society)
www.aafastflorida.org - (Asthma & Allergy Foundation of America)

All copays will be due at check-in. You will need to be sure that your copay is paid each time you come to the office for a visit or an allergy injection. Also, a reminder that yearly deductibles begin on January 1st. They will also need to be paid at the time of your visit or injection.

MAIL ORDER PRESCRIPTIONS BEING FAXED IS THE PATIENTS RESPONSIBILITY. WE WILL WRITE THEM, BUT YOU MUST SEND THEM.

Billing Bulletin ...

Payments toward your deductible are due at the time of your visit. All copays will be collected prior to your visit with the doctor or before your allergy injection. If you have an HMO insurance plan, you must have a referral with you on the day of your visit. If you do not have a referral, you will need to reschedule your visit or pay us for your visit before you are seen. If you have paid and we receive a referral after your visit, you will be reimbursed. We accept Visa, Mastercard, and American Express for your convenience.

Our new office Manager, Susan Tooch, and our new Billing and Insurance Supervisor, Barbara Miller are always happy to help you with insurance problems and questions. Please feel free to call upon them at any time.

ALL OFFICES PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOWING INSURANCE COMPANY PLANS

AETNA MANAGED CARE/U.S. FLA
ADVANTAGE 65
AMERIGROUP
AMERICAN MEDICAL SECURITY
BC/BS OF FLA PPO
BLUE CROSS/BLUE SHIELD HEALTH OPTIONS
BLUE MEDICARE PPO & HMO
BEECH ST PPO
BELLSOUTH PPO
CARE PLUS
CHAMPUS/TRICARE
CIGNA PPO &HMO
COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK
DIMENSION HEALTH
EMI
FIRST HEALTH NETWORK
HUMANA HMO-PPO
MEDICARE
NEIGHBORHOOD HEALTH
ONE SOURCE
PHCS
SOUTHCARE
SUNCOAST MEDICARE ADVANTAGE PLAN
UNITED HEALTH CARE
VISTA
WELLCARE - STAYWELL

OFFICE POLICIES

1. Always call immediately for emergencies. Try to call before the problem becomes an emergency.
2. When you have a daytime problem, call early in the workday. If you need to be seen, it is important to schedule the visit as soon as possible so that we are able to accommodate you at your convenience.
3. If you need to speak to a nurse or doctor, be sure to leave a phone number and time you will be available. Except for emergencies, calls are usually returned between 11 :30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., and between 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.
4. Prescriptions will not be authorized for anyone who has not had an office visit within the previous twelve (12) months.
5. Refills of most routine medications can be authorized for one (1) year following the date of your last office visit.
6. When calling for prescription refills, always have the exact name of the medication and amount you need. Also have the pharmacy name and phone number. All prescriptions must be authorized by the physician. Calls after 4:30 p.m. may be refilled the next day.
7. Prescription refills called at night or on weekends will be authorized for only limited amounts of medication since there is no chart to review. Try to call during office hours to avoid these limitations. Be aware that all prescriptions and refills are carefully documented in your medical record.
8. You will be advised of laboratory results by telephone. If you have not been called within forty-eight (48) hours, please call to find out if they are available. If you do not understand the results, ask the nurse if the doctor can return your call or schedule an appointment, to explain the test results.
9. If you call at night or on the weekend and your call is not returned in 20 minutes, please call again.

Your suggestions and complaints are always welcome. Unless we know there is a problem, we can't solve it.