



SUBLINGUAL IMMUNOTHERAPY (SLIT)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is SLIT?

Sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) is the use of daily oral drops to treat allergies. Similar to allergy injections (SCIT), SLIT addresses underlying causes of allergies rather than simply treating symptoms. SLIT is given in gradually increasing doses & is an alternative to allergy injections.

How long has SLIT been in use?

It has been in use for over 60 years in various parts of the world.

How does SLIT work?

It works by allowing a person to be exposed to an antigen (allergy-causing substance) without having an allergic response (sneezing, itchy, watery eyes, etc.) over a period of time.

Is SLIT as effective as traditional allergy injections?

Recent studies show SLIT can be as effective as allergy injections. However, desired results while taking SLIT may take longer to achieve.

Is SLIT safe?

Recent studies show SLIT to be safe. Side effects may include mild irritation/itching of the mouth, lip & eye area as well as stomach upset, vomiting, & diarrhea.

What are the differences between SLIT & traditional allergy injections?

As mentioned above, SLIT involves *oral drops daily*. Traditional allergy injections include *shot(s) weekly*. *SEE NEXT PAGE for comparison of SLIT & SCIT

Who should NOT be tested?

1. Patients who are pregnant or trying to become pregnant
2. Patient who are nursing unless approved by ob/gyn
3. Patients who have a fever, chest cold, flu like symptoms, wheezing, sob, hives, rash, or has had a recent injection from another doctor

4. Patients who fail pulmonary function test requirements or have uncontrolled asthma
5. Patients who are taking Beta-Blockers

Who should not receive a SLIT dose?

1. Patients who have oral ulcerations or have had recent oral surgery
2. Patients who have a fever, chest cold, flu like symptoms, wheezing or shortness of breath
3. Patients who have hives, a rash, or have had a recent injection from another doctor
4. Patients who are asthmatic and whose symptoms are flaring.

Is SLIT covered by insurance?

SLIT is NOT currently covered by insurance or FDA approved.

SLIT vs. SCIT Overview

SLIT (Sublingual immunotherapy)

- Oral drops
- Daily
- May advance @ home; take 1st dose @ office

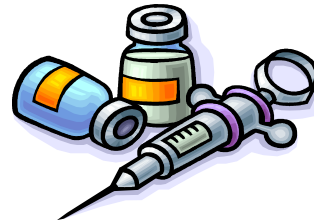
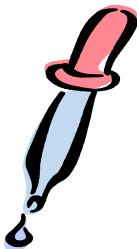
- Less time in allergy department

- NOT covered by insurance

- Route NOT FDA approved

SCIT (Subcutaneous immunotherapy)

- Injections
- Weekly (varies)
- Must advance in office; may home when on maintenance (after approximately 6 weeks)
- More time in allergy department/
more copays (if required by individual insurance plan)
- Partially/completely covered by insurance
- FDA approved



For additional information, you may visit www.allergychoices.com

