

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 and 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. In some instances SLIT and SCIT have been used concurrently.

Is SLIT safe?

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

What are the differences between SLIT & traditional allergy injections (SCIT)?

As mentioned above, SLIT involves daily oral drops. Traditional allergy injections include shot(s) weekly. *SEE BELOW 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 or anti-histamines



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, although the materials used for SLIT are the same that have been used in traditional injections.

SLIT vs. SCIT Overview

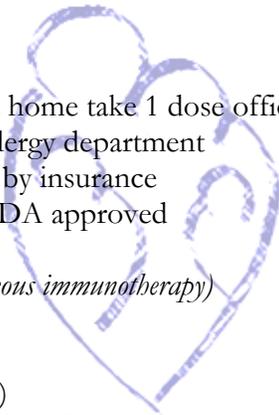
SLIT (Sublingual immunotherapy)

- Oral drops
- Daily

- May advance a home take 1 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;
- More time in allergy department/more copays (if required by individual insurance plan)
- Partially/completely covered by insurance
- FDA approved



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How do I get started?

- Commitment of adherence to daily at home therapy is established with patient or parent.
- Payment for allergen extract is out of pocket" \$90.00 per titration set or \$80 per maintenance vial and is prepaid for the mix (each should last 2.5-3 months)
- Copays, deductibles, co-insurance, are patient's responsibility for the Physician visits or other charges.
- An appointment will be scheduled with the Physician to receive your first dose. There will be additional visits quarterly. After receiving a dose in the office, there is a 20 minute wait to monitor for any reactions.

