Greendale Veterinary Diagnostics Limited.

Interpretation of Immunotherapy Results and Treatment Guidelines

Allergy Results:

Negative = <=150 Borderline 151 – 199 Positive 200 – 400 High positive >400

Antigens with a test score of 175 and above are recommended for desensitization and are marked with an asterisk.

Food(s) cannot be treated and are strictly avoidance only.

Treatment sets consist of three vials, increasing in strength, which last over 283 days, although in some cases it is recommended that these are separated – see below for further details.
Maintenance vials, after initial treatment, consist of one vial and should be started 14 days after last injection from the initial set.

For Feline and Canine sets up to 12 allergens can be included and up to 20 allergens for equine sets. - see below for further details.

To order a treatment set we would require a completed in full and signed **Desensitisation Treatment Order Form** - if one is not attached with these results please ring for a copy.
Arrival takes approximately 14 days. Instructions/guidelines and the treatment schedule are included.

If you would like to discuss your results or have any other queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Greendale Veterinary Diagnostics will follow the most recent guidelines on Allergen Immunotherapy (Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, vol. 90, pp. 1-40, Jan. 2003), which were developed by the Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters, American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (AAAAI), for the formulation of new treatment sets. It has now been well documented that antigens derived from moulds, mites and insects contain high amounts of protease activity, which can negatively affect the efficacy of pollen or epithelial antigens. Summary Statement 28 of the AAAAI Joint Task Force Report on Allergy Immunotherapy Practice Parameters states, "antigen extracts with high protease activity (moulds, mites and insects) should be separated from other extracts, in immunotherapy vaccines".

As a result of our commitment to adhere to these guidelines, we recommend the following changes in treatment set methodology: **<u>these are guidelines only the decision is yours</u>**

1. Mould, mite and most insect antigens should be mixed together, and should **NOT** be mixed with pollen antigens.

2. Grass, tree and weed pollen antigens can be mixed with animal epithelial antigens (animal danders).

3. Some venomous insect antigens, which include honeybee, and wasp, must **each** be formulated separately for immunotherapy treatment, due to high levels of endogenous proteolytic activity.

4. The maximum number of antigens in a single treatment set for small animals (dogs and cats) should be limited to **12**. Equine treatment sets will continue to have **20** allergens per treatment set vial.

5. In cases where the number of documented allergic sensitivities exceeds **12** antigens (Small Animal), ask us about antigenic cross-reactivity. We will help you to identify and eliminate cross-reacting antigens, so that your treatment set meets this guideline.

We recognize that not everyone treating an animal for allergies with immunotherapy will choose to follow the guideline regarding separation of mould and pollen antigens. However, we feel that it is our responsibility to inform you that mixing antigens with high protease activity (moulds, mites and insects) with those characterized by low proteolytic activity (grass, weed and tree pollens) has been documented to result in less effective immunotherapy treatment.

Vial 1:

Grass pollens
Tree pollens
Weed pollens
Tobacco (leaf antigen)
All epithelia: Cat, Dog, Mouse, Human
Fibers: Jute, Cotton Linters, Wool, Kapok
Mixed Feathers

Notes:
Cat Epithelium is one of the most potent antigens that we test. A home does **not** need a cat in residence in order for a resident dog to have an allergy to this antigen. Cat epithelium antigen is ubitiquous. So, animals exhibiting allergy to cat epithelium should be treated for it, even if a cat does not live in the home or barn (for horses).
Tobacco antigen is from the leaf of the plant, and contains a panallergen (widely present in many places) that cross-reacts with other plant antigens, e.g. mugwort, tomato and many others. It is irrelevant whether or not there is a smoker in the home for this allergy to manifest. Tobacco allergen is not related to tobacco smoke.

Vial 2:

Moulds, including Grass Smut
Candida (a yeast)
House Dust (placed in Vial 2 because most dust is composed of fungi and mite antigens)
Dust Mite Mix (D. farinae and D. pteronyssinus)
L. destructor (mite)
T. putrescentiae (mite)
A. siro (mite)
Mosquito
Flea
Cockroach
Moth
Housefly
Black Ant
Fire Ant
Culicoides (horses only)

Separate set of vials, single antigen per treatment set (also has special pricing):

Honeybee
Wasp