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IgG and IgM in the late-phase reaction

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To the Editor:

In their study of the late-phase reaction, Zweiman et al. (J Allergy Clin Immunol 1998;101:110-5) ignore the most efficient immunologic mediator of inflammation, namely the complement system triggered by immune complexes containing either IgG or IgM antibodies. These represent the most likely basis for a difference in the late-phase reaction between different individuals who possess IgE of the appropriate specificity. Contrary to the apparently popular belief among allergists, an immune response will more than likely involve the generation of several antibody isotypes. An IgE response devoid of other immune activity is a relatively rare phenomenon.

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