

Correspondence

Reply

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To the Editor:

We thank Drs Justicia and Mullol¹ for their comments on the recent Allergic Rhinitis and its Impact on Asthma update on immunotherapy.² We agree that the level of evidence for the efficacy of subcutaneous immunotherapy in allergic rhinitis is now Ia, as reflected in the published meta-analysis.³ As acknowledged by Justicia and Mullol, the update was submitted and processed before the publication of the meta-analysis and we wanted to be formally correct by not quoting it.

Concerning the likely prevention of new skin sensitizations by using sublingual immunotherapy, we acknowledge that the published evidence is derived from 1 randomized open study⁴ and therefore could be Ib rather than IIa. Nevertheless, in this latter case and in agreement with the panel of experts, we wanted to be more conservative. The IIa grading was intended to underline that the evidence is thus far weak. Finally, new articles on immunotherapy (subcutaneous and sublingual) appear almost every day. On the one hand, this reflects the intense and active interest in the field, and on the other hand, it makes it more and more difficult to produce properly updated systematic reviews of immunotherapy.

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Disclosure of potential conflict of interest: G. Passalacqua has declared that he has no relevant conflict of interest. S. R. Durham has consultant arrangements with ALK-Abelló, GlaxoSmithKline, Schering-Plough, and Novartis; has received grants/research support from ALK-Abelló and GlaxoSmithKline; is employed by the Imperial College London, Immune Tolerance Network, and National Institutes of Health; and has served on the speakers' bureau for ALK-Abelló, GlaxoSmithKline, and Allergy Therapeutics.

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doi:10.1016/j.jaci.2007.08.068