

Short Communication

Oral allergy syndrome from kiwi fruit after a lover's kiss

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Case Report

A 19-year-old girl had had seasonal rhinoconjunctivitis caused by birch and grass pollen hypersensitivity. She also had a history of oral allergy syndrome (OAS) (1–5) from raw apple, kiwi fruit and raw celery, such that she strictly avoided these foods. Recently, she presented with uvular edema, oropharyngeal irritation and facial angioedema, after a kiss from her boyfriend, who had just eaten a fresh kiwi fruit. Combined corticosteroid and antihistamine promptly controlled the symptoms.

The following tests were positive in the patient: (i) prick and scratch-patch tests (readings at 30 min) with her partner's saliva, but only when taken just 5 min after eating a kiwi fruit; subsequent samples after 10 min or more were negative; (ii) prick tests with birch, grass mix, apple and kiwi; (iii) RAST for kiwi, apple, birch and grass pollen. The total IgE serum level was 840 IU/ml. The boyfriend's parents (as controls) were prick and scratch-patch tested with their son's saliva, taken 5 min after eating a kiwi fruit, and were negative.

Comment

OAS from eating kiwi fruit has been reported before (4). It most often affects patients who are allergic to birch

and/or grass pollen, as here, because of cross-reacting allergens (5). The means of inducing kiwi-related OAS in this case is the unusual feature (4).

References

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