

Letter to the Editor

Quantitative assessment of the compliance with once-daily sublingual immunotherapy in children

Editor,

We read with interest the paper by Passalacqua et al. that reported on the compliance of once-daily sublingual immunotherapy (SLIT) in a large group of children (1). We would like to address some points of interest, which we encountered when studying this paper.

To assess compliance, parents were asked whether their child was still taking SLIT and to count the unused dose containers remaining in the blister package. However, parents may overestimate the number of containers in order to give a desirable answer. Empty vials had to be returned at visit. We wonder whether it is a good double check to count these vials and compare these with the answers of the telephone interviews.

No data were available after 6 months, from 10 children who received a pre-seasonal SLIT for 3–5 months. We are curious to know whether the authors think the compliance of these children is higher, because they only used the SLIT for a short time. Did the compliance differ between the pre-seasonal group and the group with continuous treatment?

After 3 months, data were available for 71 children. After 6 months, data were collected for 56 children only. It is known that 10 patients had been prescribed pre-seasonal SLIT, and therefore could not be calculated in the analysis of

6 months. We wonder why the data of five missing children, who discontinued the treatment between 3 and 6 months is not shown in table 1. This may affect the compliance rate in a negative way.

After 6 months, data of 56 children were available compared with data of 71 of children after 3 months. This difference may be suggestive of diminishing compliance itself. It would be very interesting to assess the compliance after a longer period of time, e.g. 1 yr.

In the Discussion section, the authors mention that SLIT was discontinued after the first 3 months in 7% of the cases. In table 1 we can find only 3%.

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Reference

1. PASSALACQUA G, MUSARRA A, PECORA S, et al. Quantitative assessment of the compliance with once-daily sublingual immunotherapy in children (EASY Project: Evaluation of A novel SLIT formulation during a Year). *Pediatr Allergy Immunol* 2007; 18: 58–62.