

Correspondence

Design of the EpiPen Auto-Injector

To the Editor:

We read with interest the recent clinical review by Jones and Burks.¹ The authors described a new epinephrine auto-injector, the Auvi-Q Auto-Injector (Sanofi, Bridgewater, NJ), that was recently approved for the emergency treatment of allergic reactions (type I), including anaphylaxis.² Jones and Burks¹ cited 2 studies by Guerlain et al^{3,4} to support their statement that the Auvi-Q device has the potential to reduce errors in the delivery of epinephrine. Both of these studies^{3,4} evaluated prototype devices and not the marketed Auvi-Q Auto-Injector. In one of the referenced studies, Guerlain et al³ noted that the voice prompt failed 7 times out of 48 patients studied (15% failure rate) during their testing. Participants in the second cited study⁴ were asked to recall any instance in the past when an EpiPen Auto-Injector (Mylan Specialty LP, Basking Ridge, NJ) was used incorrectly by someone. Because neither the sources for recall data nor the time frames over which they occurred were known, any estimate of rates of occurrence of these participant-reported events is impossible to determine. In addition, neither of the studies cited evaluated actual error reduction in delivery of epinephrine in treating anaphylaxis, an acute situation in which the benefit versus potential confusion of an audio device has not been assessed.⁴ We would also like to point

out that the EpiPen Auto-Injector design tested in these referenced studies was replaced in 2010 with the currently marketed product.⁵ Hence, it is our belief that the 2 references cited do not fully substantiate the statement made by Jones and Burks.¹

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<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jaci.2013.04.021>