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Peanut Allergy

[Correspondence]

Kuwayama, S. Paul

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; Milwaukee, WI 53226
kuwayama@execpc.com

To the Editor: Regarding the article on peanut allergy by Sampson (April 25 issue), [\[1\]](#)
one should note that although anaphylaxis is the hallmark of peanut allergy, this

allergy can also manifest in the form of such chronic, non-life-threatening entities as atopic dermatitis. In addition, there may be a link between the growing availability of infant formulas containing isolated soy protein during the past 40 years and the increasing prevalence of peanut allergy. During the 30 years of my practice in the field of allergy, especially pediatric allergy, 62 percent of 82 patients with confirmed cases of peanut allergy had a history of feeding difficulties resulting in attempts to substitute one or more brands of soy formula for cow's-milk formula. It seems possible that cross-sensitization between soy-protein antigens and peanut-protein antigens results in sensitivity to peanuts, because both belong to the legume family. Most of the infants in need of soy formula either had atopy or were predisposed to atopic diathesis in the first place.

S. Paul Kuwayama, M.D.

Children's Hospital of Wisconsin; Milwaukee, WI 53226

kuwayama@execpc.com

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1. Sampson HA. Peanut allergy. N Engl J Med 2002;346:1294-9. [\[Context Link\]](#)

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