
Correspondence

RISK OF HOME IMMUNOTHERAPY

To the Editor:

In their Letter to the Editor advocating the home administration of allergy injections, Leifer and Leifer¹ compare the risk of death from immunotherapy with the risk from automobile accidents driving to and from the allergist's office. However, their argument contains an error in logic. Their statement that "death from immunotherapy is estimated at 1 death per 14 million injections" is based on immunotherapy administered in an allergist's office. The proper comparison with the risk of driving is with the risk of receiving immunotherapy at home.

Because every allergist has had the experience of treating severe reactions to immunotherapy, there is good reason to think that the risk of fatal reactions at home, where a skilled physician and emergency equipment are not available, would be considerably higher.

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REFERENCE

1. Leifer KN, Leifer C. Allergy shots or automobiles: which is more dangerous? *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2007;98:604.

Author has nothing to disclose.

ALLERGY SHOTS OR AUTOMOBILES: WHICH IS MORE DANGEROUS?

To the Editor:

The June 2007 letter by Leifer and Leifer, "Allergy Shots or Automobiles: Which Is More Dangerous?,"¹ gives one pause, but not for long. The intangible of how many fatalities or injuries might accrue in the setting of untrained individuals attempting to discern when to or when not to administer epinephrine is worrisome. Even when patients know that they should self-administer epinephrine or when parents or family members know they should administer epinephrine to their child or family member, respectively, fear gets the better of them and it's too late. Let's hope that the Environmental Protection Agency does not read the figures cited by Leifer and Leifer (which look pretty good) regarding the miles driven each year (140 million to 280 million) to receive allergy shots. We may soon be accused of being one of the primary causes of increased atmospheric carbon dioxide and global warming. That would really do us a lot of good.

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REFERENCE

1. Leifer KN, Leifer C. Allergy shots or automobiles: which is more dangerous? *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2007;98:604.

Author has nothing to disclose.