

Correspondence

Reply

To the Editor:

We thank Kelso¹ for his comments on our case-control study,² and his questions regarding the proportion of reactions that occurred outside of the observation period recommended by the Omalizumab-Associated Anaphylaxis Joint Task Force.³

We agree with Kelso that in our study although 39% of the reactions occurred within the first 3 doses, 61% of the reactions occurred after 4 or more doses, where dose was recorded. We also wanted to provide additional information requested by Kelso regarding the onset of reactions in the patients. As reported, 70% of reactions occurred within 1 hour of omalizumab dosing. When we looked further into the onset of reactions of the 11 patients who experienced a reaction within the first 3 doses, the majority (9 of 11 [81.2%]) of these patients experienced a reaction in 2 hours or less. No time to onset of reaction was reported for the 2 remaining patients. Among the 17 patients who experienced a reaction after 4 or more doses, the reaction occurred in 30 minutes or less in 10 of 17 (58.8%) patients and in more than 30 minutes in 6 of 17 (35.3%) patients (40-60 minutes, n = 3; 90-105 minutes, n = 2; 210 minutes, n = 1); no time was recorded for the remaining patient.

We greatly appreciate Kelso's desire to understand how our new observations relate to current recommendations for mitigating the risk of anaphylaxis associated with omalizumab.³ However, although the timing of the anaphylaxis event in most patients in our recent report fall within these guidelines, given the small number of patients (N = 30), we suggest caution in making additional recommendations at this time and would urge that providers continue to adhere to the guidance in the product label suggesting careful observance of patients for an

appropriate period of time postdose.⁴ We also suggest that it may be prudent to continue to collect data regarding anaphylaxis cases associated with omalizumab so that additional recommendation might be available in the future.

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