



Biologics for Food Allergy

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Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine



Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this activity, participants should be able to...

- Discuss how biologics may lessen the burden of disease in IgE mediated food allergy
 - Family, community, society
 - Food allergy severity
 - Food allergy anxiety
 - Bullying
 - Quality of life
- Appreciate how food allergy and anxiety interact
 - Implement screening tools and risk framing for anxiety



- *M.K. is a 9 year old child with clinical food allergies to milk, egg, soy, peanut, cashew, pistachio, walnut, pecan, sesame, and mustard*
- *Markers of sensitization have increased over the years, with 3-4+ testing to most foods and sIgE ranging from 12 kU/L to > 100 kU/L*
- *The patient has been bullied through the years. Although this has been addressed, he has significant anxiety about food allergic reactions, having experienced anaphylaxis twice*

Questions:

1. How severe is his food allergy?
2. How would you assess this patient's anxiety?
3. What treatment options would you consider for food allergy?

Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters

JOINT TASK FORCE
JTF
ALLERGY IMMUNOLOGY
PP
PRACTICE PARAMETERS

HOME ABOUT PARAMETERS & GUIDELINES OUR PROCESS RESOURCES

Welcome to the JTFPP

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology and the American College of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology formed the Allergy Immunology Joint Task Force on Practice Parameters to develop practice parameters for diagnosis and management of allergic and immunologic diseases.

American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology
The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology is dedicated to the advancement of the knowledge and practice of allergy, asthma and immunology for optimal patient care.

American College of Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology
The American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology promotes excellence in the practice of the subspecialty of allergy and immunology.

Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 132 (2024) 124–176

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Practice Parameters

Anaphylaxis: A 2023 practice parameter update

Check for updates

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<https://www.allergyparameters.org>

Anaphylaxis Triggers and Risks



Leading anaphylaxis triggers

- Adults: Medications
 - Antibiotics, NSAIDs, Immunomodulators, Biologics, Anesthetics
- Children/Adolescents: Foods
- All ages. Stinging Insects
- Idiopathic

Risk factors for severe anaphylaxis include

- Cardiovascular disease
- Asthma
- Older age
- Co-morbid conditions
 - Mast cell disorder, beta-blocker use, ACEi use



Patient, Family, Community, Society

Original Investigation

The Economic Impact of Childhood Food Allergy in the United States

2013

Ruchi Gupta, MD, MPH; David Holdford, RPh, PhD; Lucy Bilaver, PhD; Ashley Dyer, MPH;
Jane L. Holl, MD, MPH; David Meltzer, MD, PhD

Overall economic cost of food allergy
\$24.8 billion USD in children alone



Bullying

EDUCATION

COMMUNICATION

ENGAGEMENT

An official website of the United States government

[Here's how you know](#)

stopbullying.gov

Search | Blog | Language

Bullying | Cyberbullying | Prevention | Resources | Kids | Get Help Now

**Prevention:
Learn how to
identify
bullying and
stand up to it
safely**

Become an upstander



Stop Bullying on the Spot

When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time.

Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy.

Shemesh E, et al 2013

Annunziato et al 2014

Lieberman, Weiss et al 2010



**About one-third of
children with food
allergies have been
bullied due to their
food allergy**

WAO consensus on DEfinition of Food Allergy SEverity (DEFASE)



- Symptoms / signs of most severe prior reaction
- Minimum therapy to treat most severe reaction
- Individual minimal eliciting dose
- **Current food allergy quality of life**
- **Current health-economic impact**

DEFASE Domains
(1-3 points each)

-mild, moderate, or severe-

DEFASE Score

- Mild: ≤ 6 points
- Moderate: 7-12 points
- Severe: ≥ 13 points

Holistic view

Food Allergy and Anxiety

- Impacts both parents and children
- In one study, 99% of parents felt their child had a moderate to high risk of food allergy fatality

Mental Health Screening

- Anxiety: GAD-2**
- Anxiety: GAD-7
- Depression: PHQ-2
- Depression: PHQ-9

Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item (GAD-2) Share

The Generalized Anxiety Disorder 2-item (GAD-2) is a very brief and easy to perform initial screening tool for generalized anxiety disorder.¹

Over the **last 2 weeks**, how often have you been bothered by the following problems?

Not at all

Several days

More than half the days

Nearly every day

1. Feeling nervous, anxious or on edge

<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3
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2. Not being able to stop or control worrying

<input type="radio"/> 0	<input type="radio"/> +1	<input type="radio"/> +2	<input type="radio"/> +3
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GAD-2 score obtained by adding score for each question (total points)



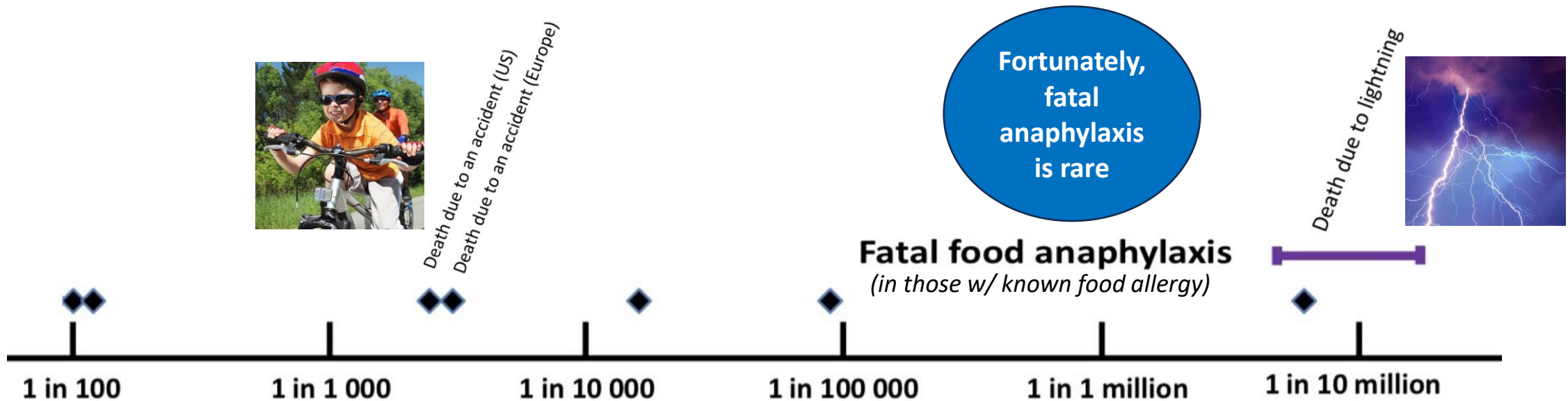
Interpretation:

A score of 3 points is the preferred cut-off for identifying possible cases and in which further diagnostic evaluation for generalized anxiety disorder is warranted. Using a cut-off of 3 the GAD-2 has a sensitivity of 86% and specificity of 83% for diagnosis generalized anxiety disorder.

Fatal Anaphylaxis: Mortality Rate and Risk Factors



Paul J. Turner, MD, PhD^{a,b}, Elina Jerschow, MD^c, Thisanayagam Umasunthar, MD^a, Robert Lin, MD^d,
Dianne E. Campbell, MD, PhD^{b,e}, and Robert J. Boyle, MB, ChB, PhD^a *London, United Kingdom; Bronx, New York, NY; and Sydney, Australia*



Risk-framing is key to understand significance of rare events

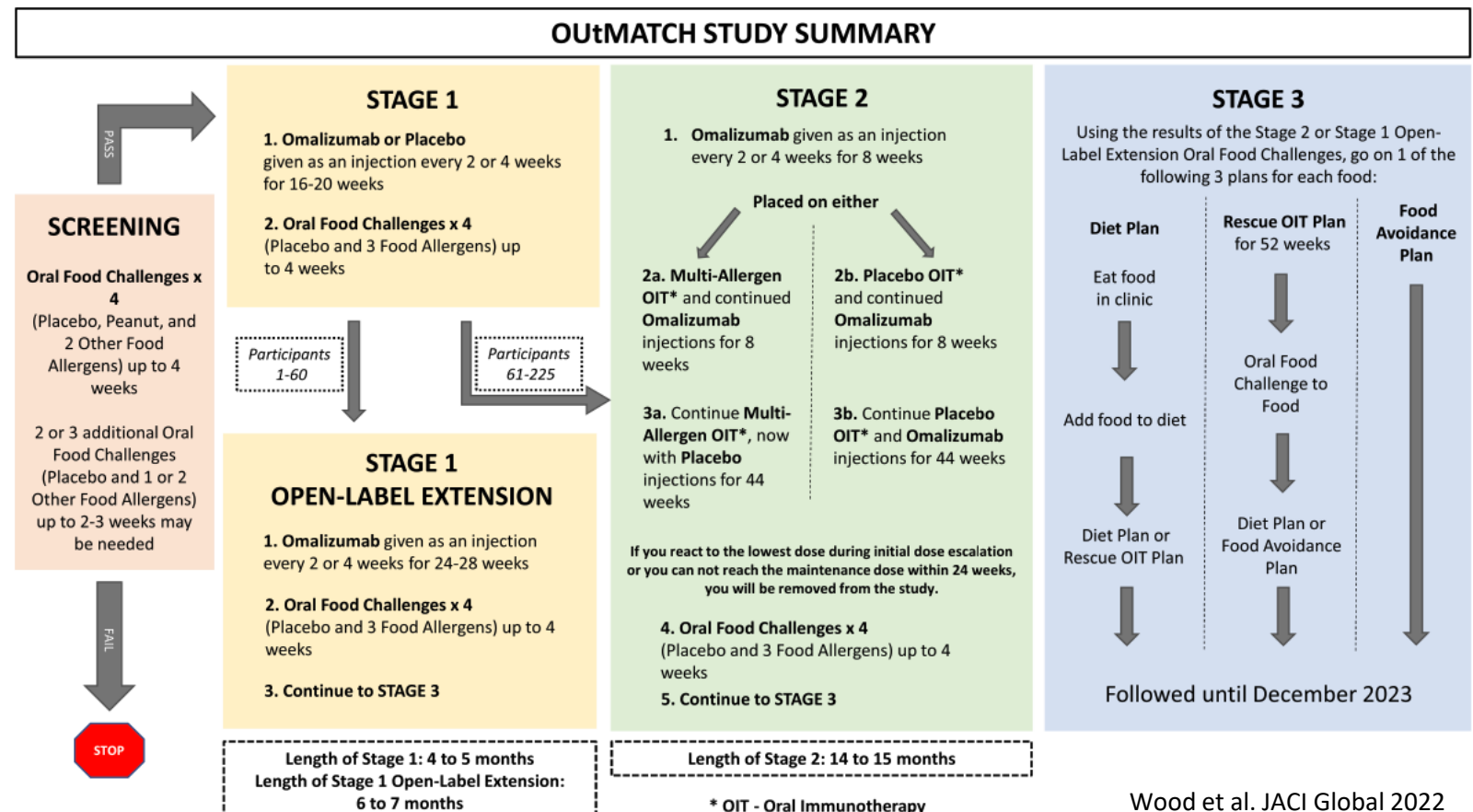
Management Options

Shared Decision-Making

- Avoidance
- Food oral immunotherapy
- Sublingual immunotherapy
- **Omalizumab**
- EPIT?
- OMIT?

Protocol design and synopsis: Omalizumab as Monotherapy and as Adjunct Therapy to Multiallergen OIT in Children and Adults with Food Allergy (OUtMATCH)

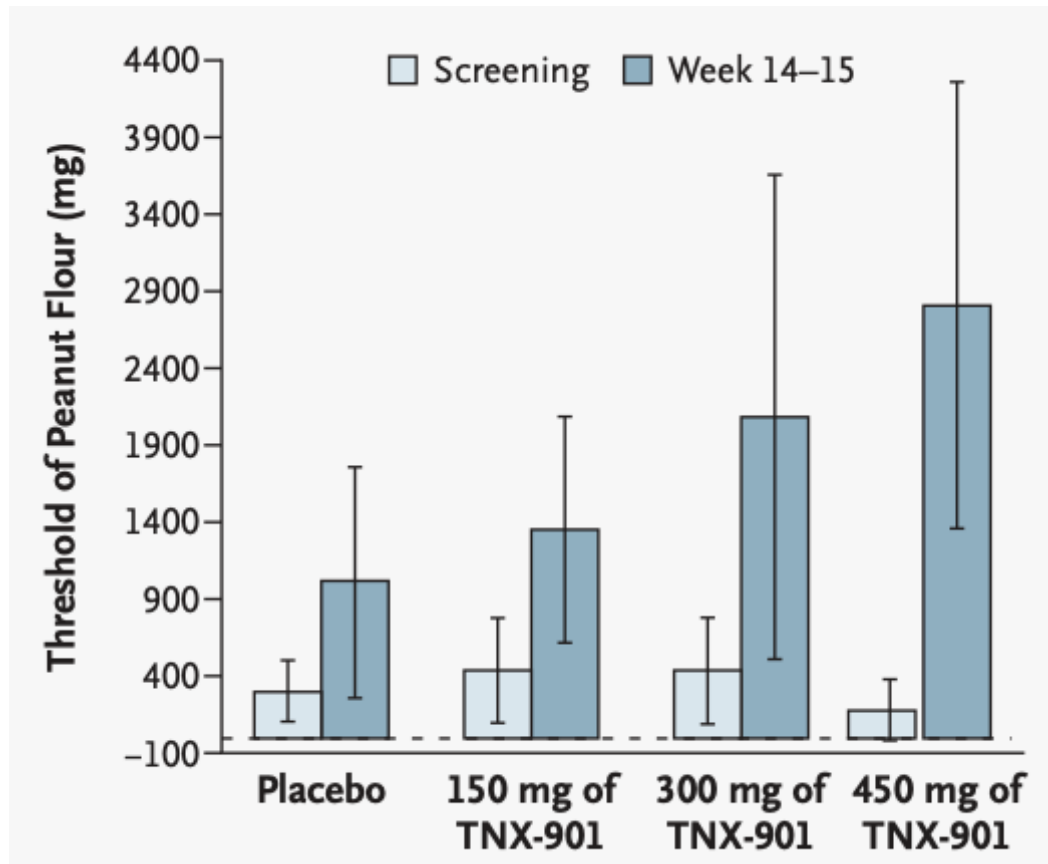
Check for updates



Even earlier in 2003...

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Effect of Anti-IgE Therapy in Patients with Peanut Allergy



- TNX-901 was a humanized IgG1 monoclonal antibody against IgE
- In a double blind trial, challenge threshold increased significantly after treatment in the 450mg group
 - Threshold increased from 178 mg to 2805 mg in this group

Even earlier in 2003..

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

How [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Stifled A Promising Drug

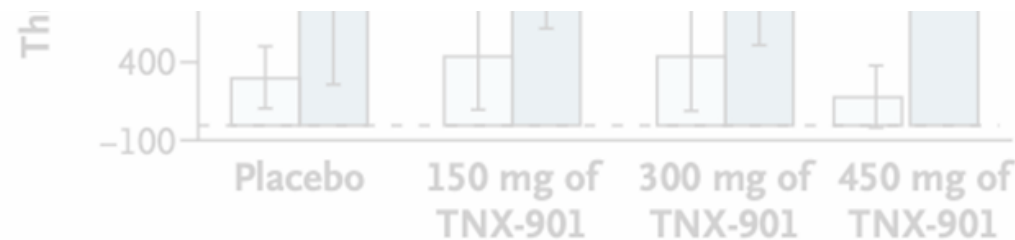
Biotech Firm Tried to Pursue

By David P. Hamilton Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

April 5, 2005 at 12:01 am ET

anut Flour (mg)

Instead, the drug sits on the shelf, abandoned after Tanox's own corporate partners forced it to end development. The U.S. biotech giant [REDACTED] Inc. and Swiss drug maker [REDACTED] AG insisted that Tanox kill TNX-901 in favor of a [REDACTED] drug called [REDACTED] that has yet to prove effective against peanut allergy.



the 450mg group

2011: Breadcrumbs of benefit

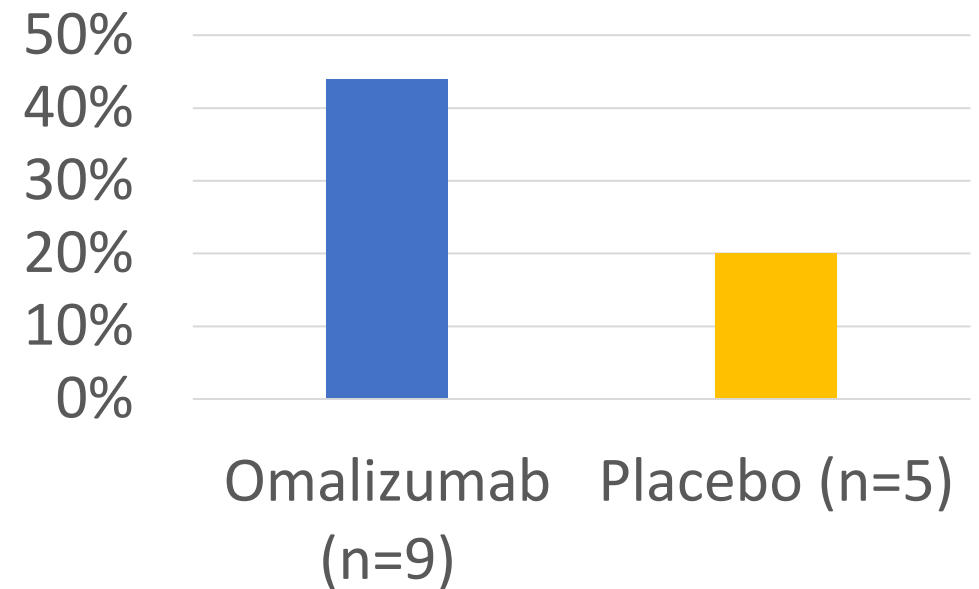
A phase II, randomized, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled oral food challenge trial of [REDACTED] (omalizumab) in peanut allergy

To the Editor:

The study was designed to compare changes in peanut tolerability thresholds in subjects with proven peanut allergy who were treated with either omalizumab or placebo. Although the study intended to randomize 150 subjects, it was stopped early on the basis of the recommendation of the Data Safety Monitoring Committee because of the severity of 2 anaphylactic reactions that occurred during the qualifying oral food challenges (OFCs) before the administration of the study drug

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Dennis A. Wong, MD^g*

Tolerant of >1,000mg post therapy (24-weeks)



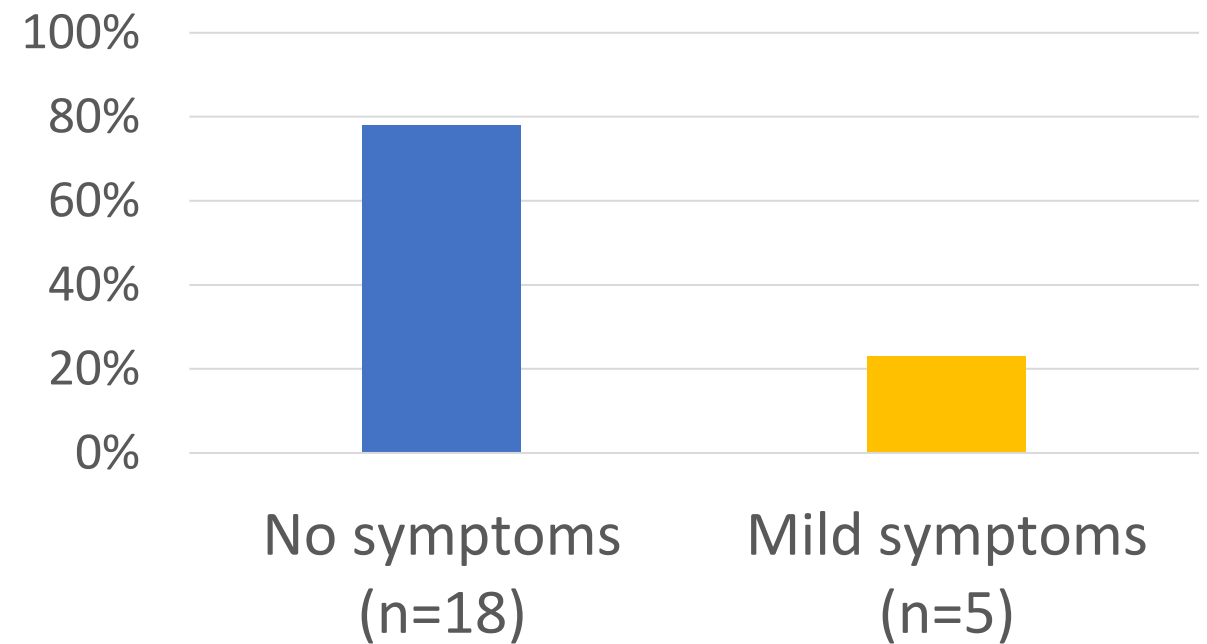
Despite early termination, 44.4% vs 20% of patients tolerated 1 g peanut flour
Omalizumab dose: 0.016 mg/kg/IgE/month (doses > 300mg/month divided q 1 weeks)

ORIGINAL ARTICLE Clinical Allergy

Individually dosed omalizumab: an effective treatment for severe peanut allergy

- 23 patients with severe peanut allergy
- Omalizumab for 8-24 weeks
- Basophil allergen threshold improved
- Open peanut challenges performed with no or minimal symptoms (78% vs 23%)

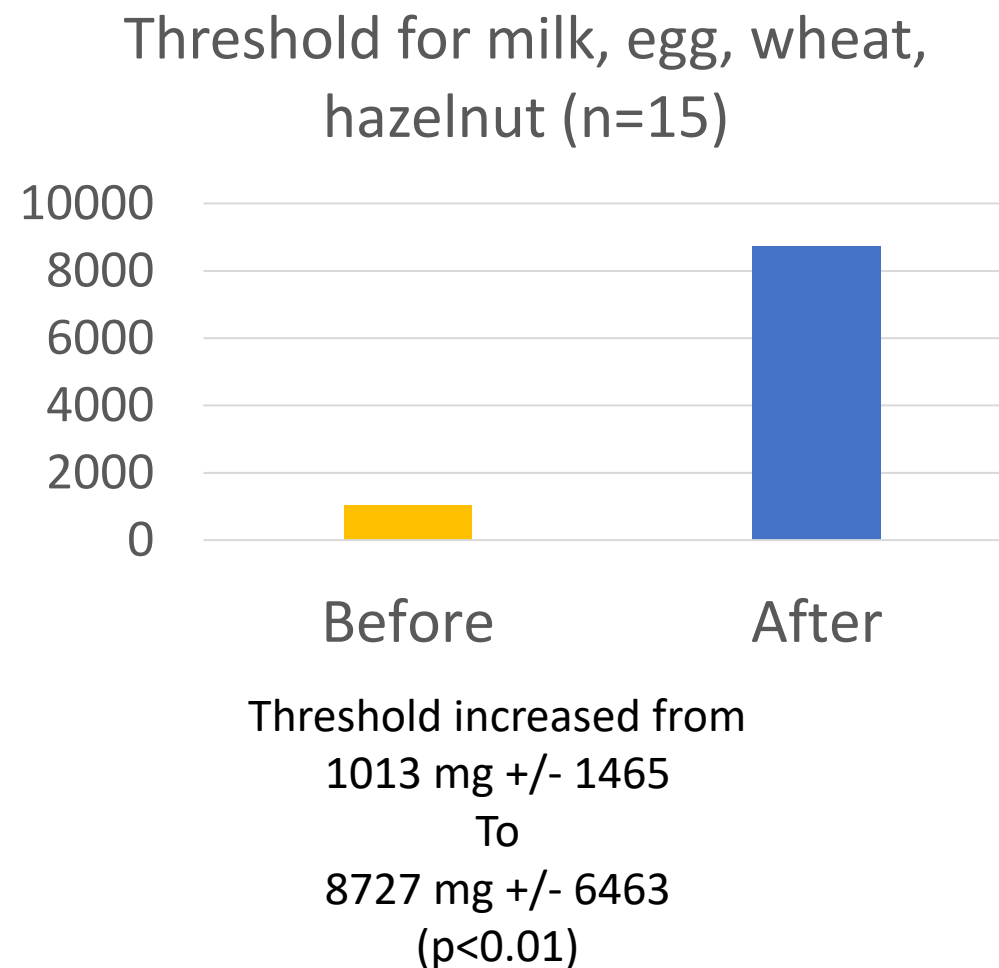
Open peanut challenge post-therapy (n=23)



Impact of Omalizumab on Food Allergy in Patients Treated for Asthma: A Real-Life Study



- Observational study of 15 children allergic to 37 foods
- Omalizumab used for their severe asthma
- Still, 70.4% tolerated complete challenge dose after 4 months
- Number of reactions to accidental ingestions dropped from 47 to 2.
- Quality of life improved



Omalizumab facilitated OIT

- Begin et al 2014 (PMID 24576338): Short term
 - Rush omalizumab for 8 weeks before & after multi-food OIT start in 25 children allowed rapid OIT escalation
- Wood et al 2015 (PMID 26581915): DBPC trial to open label, 2-3 years
 - 57 patients, omalizumab decreased OIT reactions and doses to maintenance but did not impact desensitization rates or SU
- MacGinnitie et al 2017 (PMID 27609658): Short-term study, 12 weeks
 - 37 patients randomized. Omalizumab increased day 1 desensitization (250 mg vs 22.5mg). Benefit of omalizumab persisted 12 weeks after it was stopped
- Andorf et al 2018 (PMID 29242014). Short term, 9 months
 - Randomized 48 (active) + 12 (placebo). 4 months of omalizumab + 7 months of OIT improved challenge outcomes over OIT alone (83% vs 33%, p<0.01)
- Yee et al 2019 (PMID 30267889): Long-term study , 6 years
 - **13 patients**, POIT with an initial 12 weeks of omalizumab. More rapid OIT but 46% discontinued within 6 years due to side effects.

Omalizumab in IgE-Mediated Food Allergy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis



What is already known about this topic? Immediate-type food allergy is mediated by immunoglobulin E (IgE). Omalizumab, an anti-IgE, has potential in the treatment of this condition; however, there is a lack of clarity in the available evidence supporting its potential clinical application.

What does this article add to our knowledge? To our knowledge, this is the first meta-analysis summarizing the available data for omalizumab as monotherapy or as an adjunct to oral immunotherapy in patients with IgE-mediated food allergy. No new safety signals were identified.

How does this study impact current management guidelines? Omalizumab was beneficial as a monotherapy and as an adjunct to oral immunotherapy in patients with IgE-mediated food allergy. It represents a potential treatment modality that will be further evaluated in the phase III OUTMATCH study.

Study durations

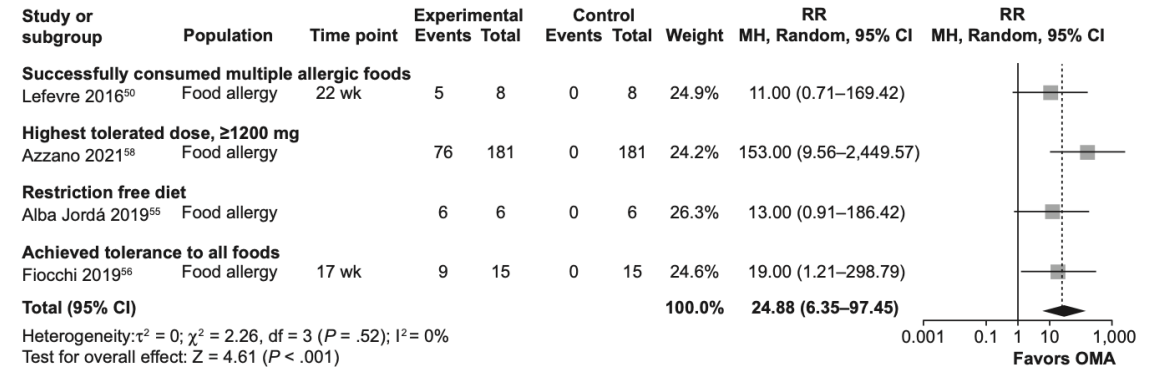
Treatment: 8 weeks – 122 weeks

Follow-up: 8 weeks - 317 weeks

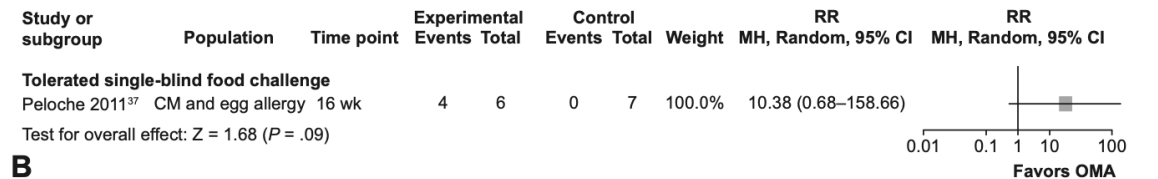
Omalizumab in IgE-Mediated Food Allergy: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis



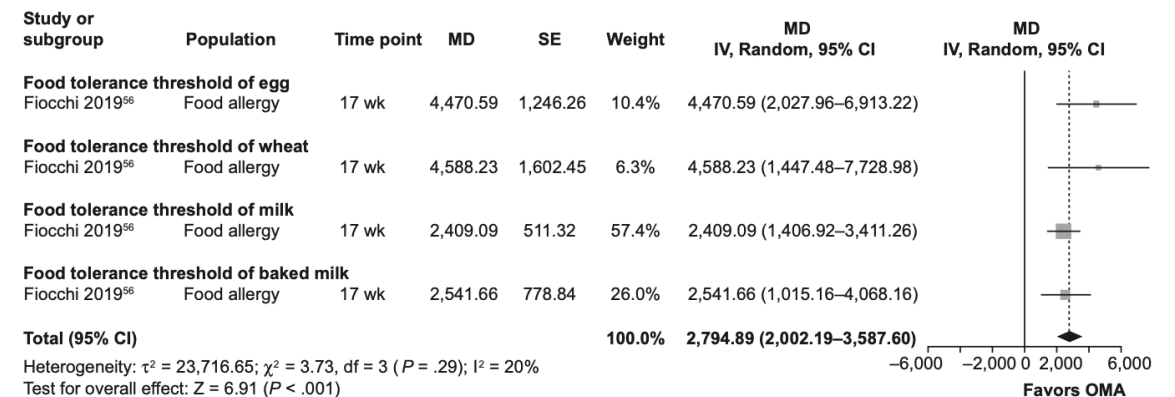
- 36 studies included
- Omalizumab monotherapy increased tolerated dose of multiple foods
 - Improved QoL
 - Reduced food allergic reactions
- Omalizumab + OIT increased tolerated dose
 - Increased desensitization
 - Improved QoL
- No major safety concerns identified



A



B



C

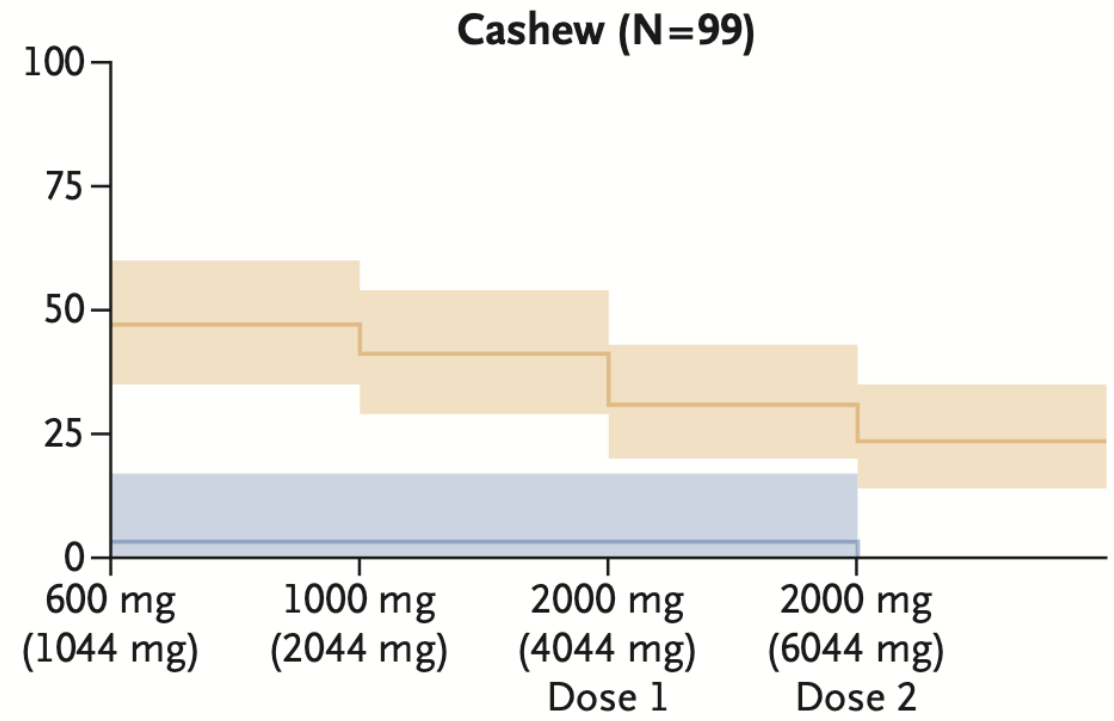
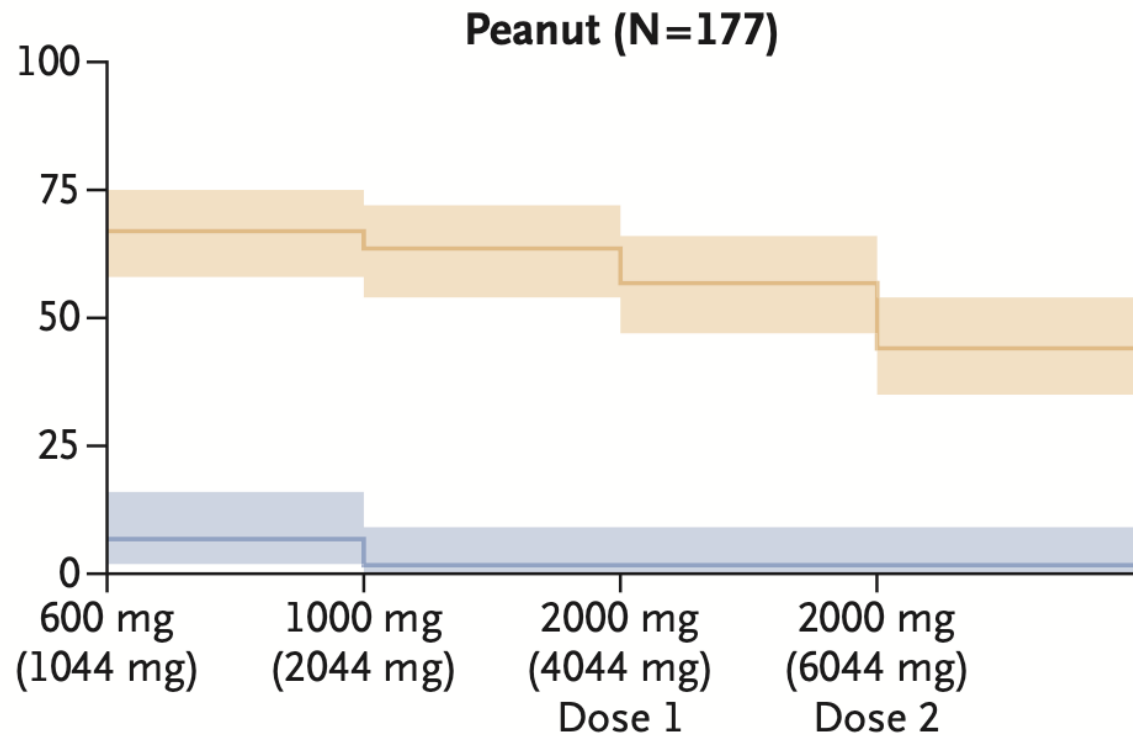


2024

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Omalizumab for the Treatment of Multiple Food Allergies

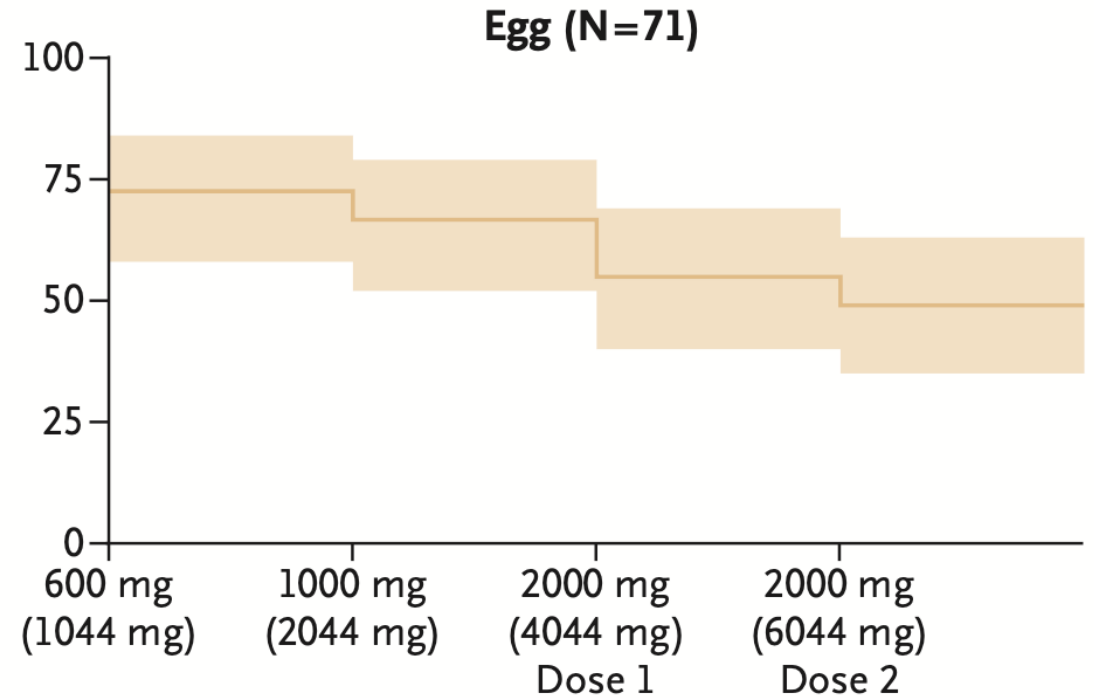
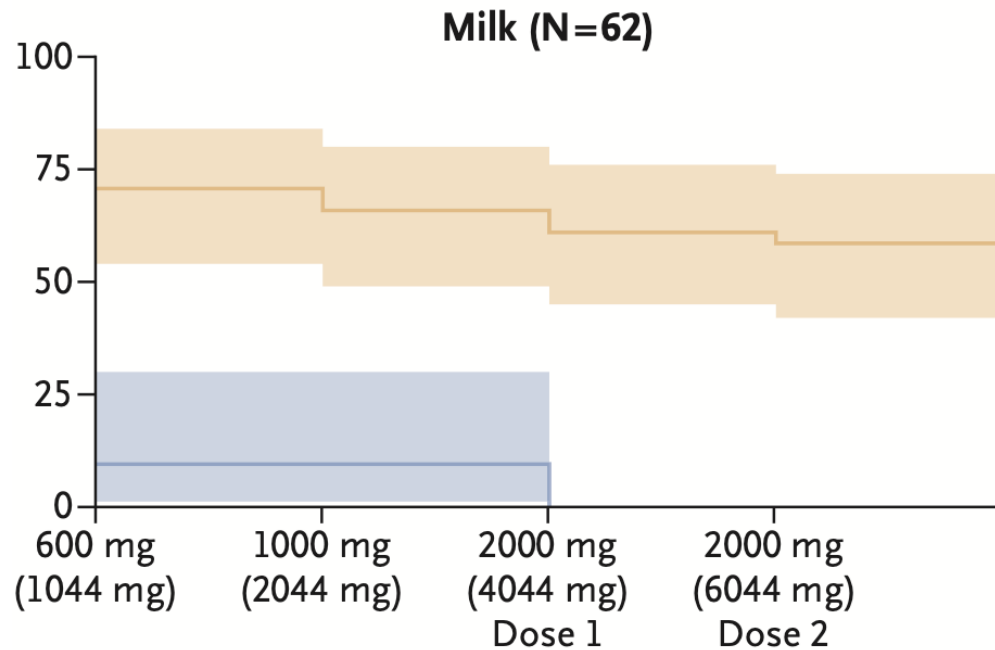
Omalizumab Placebo



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

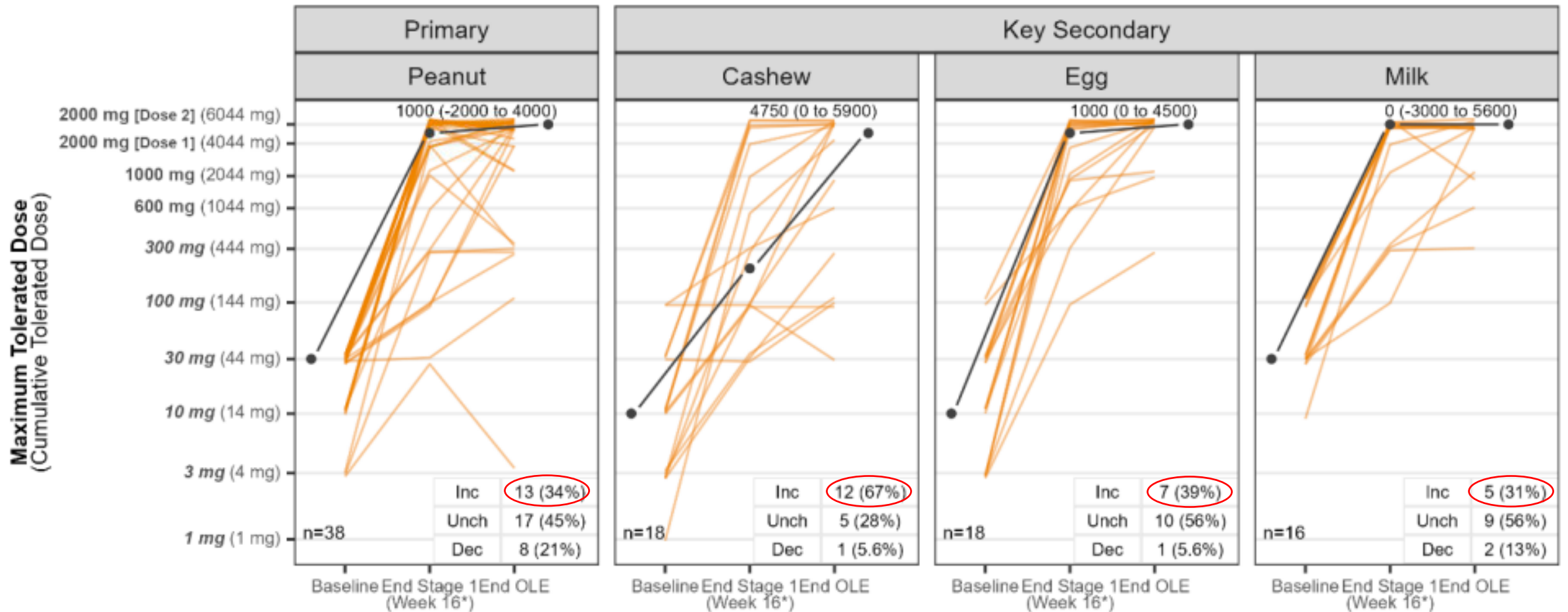
Omalizumab for the Treatment of Multiple Food Allergies

Omalizumab Placebo



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Open Label Extension to 40-44 weeks



Omalizumab: Approved for FA in February 2024

Prescribing information

- Entry DBPCFC's
- Dose limiting (mod-severe) sx to PN protein at ≤ 100 mg
- Dose limiting sx to other foods (x2) at ≤ 300 mg of protein
- N=165, ages 1-17y
- Endpoint: DBPCFC's without dose limiting (mod-severe) sx after 16-24 weeks of therapy

Food, Challenge Dose	Response Rate ^a (%) (n/N)	
	X █████	Placebo
Peanut, ≥ 600 mg	68% (75/110)	5% (3/55)
Peanut, ≥ 1000 mg ^b	65% (72/110)	0% (0/55)
Cashew, ≥ 1000 mg	42% (27/64)	3% (1/30)
Milk, ≥ 1000 mg	66% (25/38)	11% (2/19)
Egg, ≥ 1000 mg	67% (31/46)	0% (0/19)

From Outmatch:

- For consumption of 3 foods (cumulative dose):
 - 47% were able to consume 1,044 mg
 - 37% were able to consume 2,044 mg
 - 31% were able to consume 4,044 mg
 - 24% were able to consume 6,044 mg

Omalizumab: Approved for FA in February

*Dosing frequency:

- Subcutaneous doses to be administered every 4 weeks
- Subcutaneous doses to be administered every 2 weeks

“To be used in conjunction with food avoidance”

Pretreatment Serum IgE (IU/mL)	Dosing Freq.	Body Weight (kg)												
		≥10-12	>12-15	>15-20	>20-25	>25-30	>30-40	>40-50	>50-60	>60-70	>70-80	>80-90	>90 - 125	>125 - 150
		Dose (mg)												
≥30 - 100	Every 4 Weeks	75	75	75	75	75	75	150	150	150	150	150	300	300
>100 - 200		75	75	75	150	150	150	300	300	300	300	300	450	600
>200 - 300		75	75	150	150	150	225	300	300	450	450	450	600	375
>300 - 400		150	150	150	225	225	300	450	450	450	600	600	450	525
>400 - 500		150	150	225	225	300	450	450	600	600	375	375	525	600
>500 - 600		150	150	225	300	300	450	600	600	375	450	450	600	
>600 - 700	Every 2 Weeks	150	150	225	300	225	450	600	375	450	450	525		
>700 - 800		150	150	150	225	225	300	375	450	450	525	600		
>800 - 900		150	150	150	225	225	300	375	450	525	600			
>900 - 1000		150	150	225	225	300	375	450	525	600				
>1000 - 1100		150	150	225	225	300	375	450	600					
>1100 - 1200		150	150	225	300	300	450	525	600	Insufficient data to Recommend a Dose				
>1200 - 1300		150	225	225	300	375	450	525						
>1300 - 1500		150	225	300	300	375	525	600						
>1500 - 1850		225	300	375	450	600								

Certainty in Patient Selection

- How should the patient values and preferences be incorporated into selection for an expensive biologic?
- How do payor requirements impact this conversation?

A phase II, randomized, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled oral food challenge trial of ██████ (omalizumab) in peanut allergy

To the Editor:

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WILEY



A perspective on the pediatric death from oral food challenge reported from the Allergy Vigilance Network

Upton J, Alvaro M, Nadeau K

Allergy. 2019;74:1035–1036.

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Certainty in Patient Outcome

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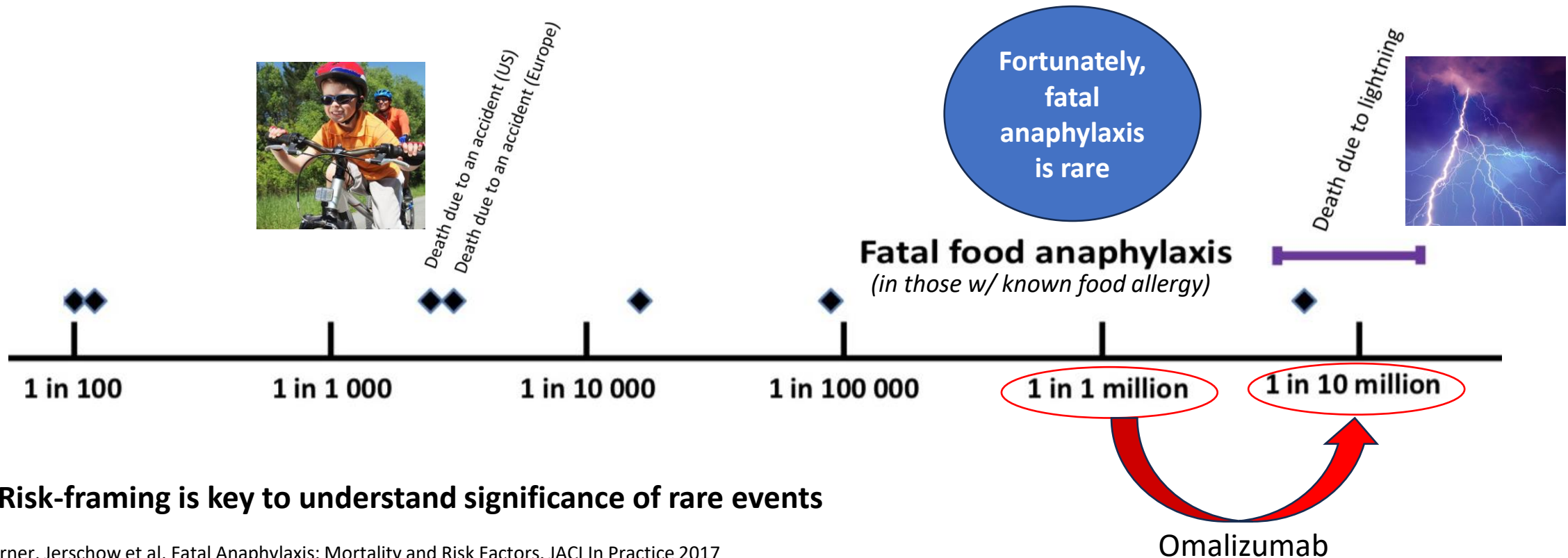
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	X	Y
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- Need to identify responders?
- Role of SDM?
- Patient goals and preferences are key
- Some patients may choose 'off-label' threshold challenges
- Others may choose to follow labeled indication
- Durability of response assumed?

Fatal Anaphylaxis: Mortality Rate and Risk Factors

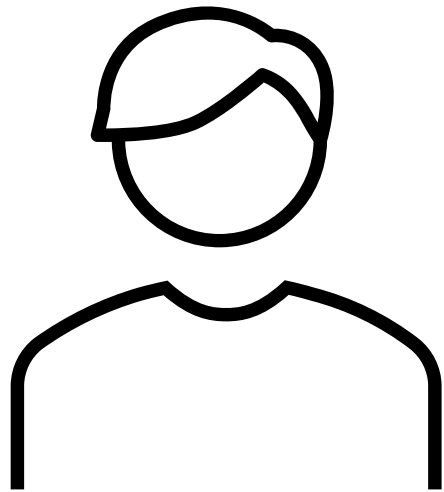


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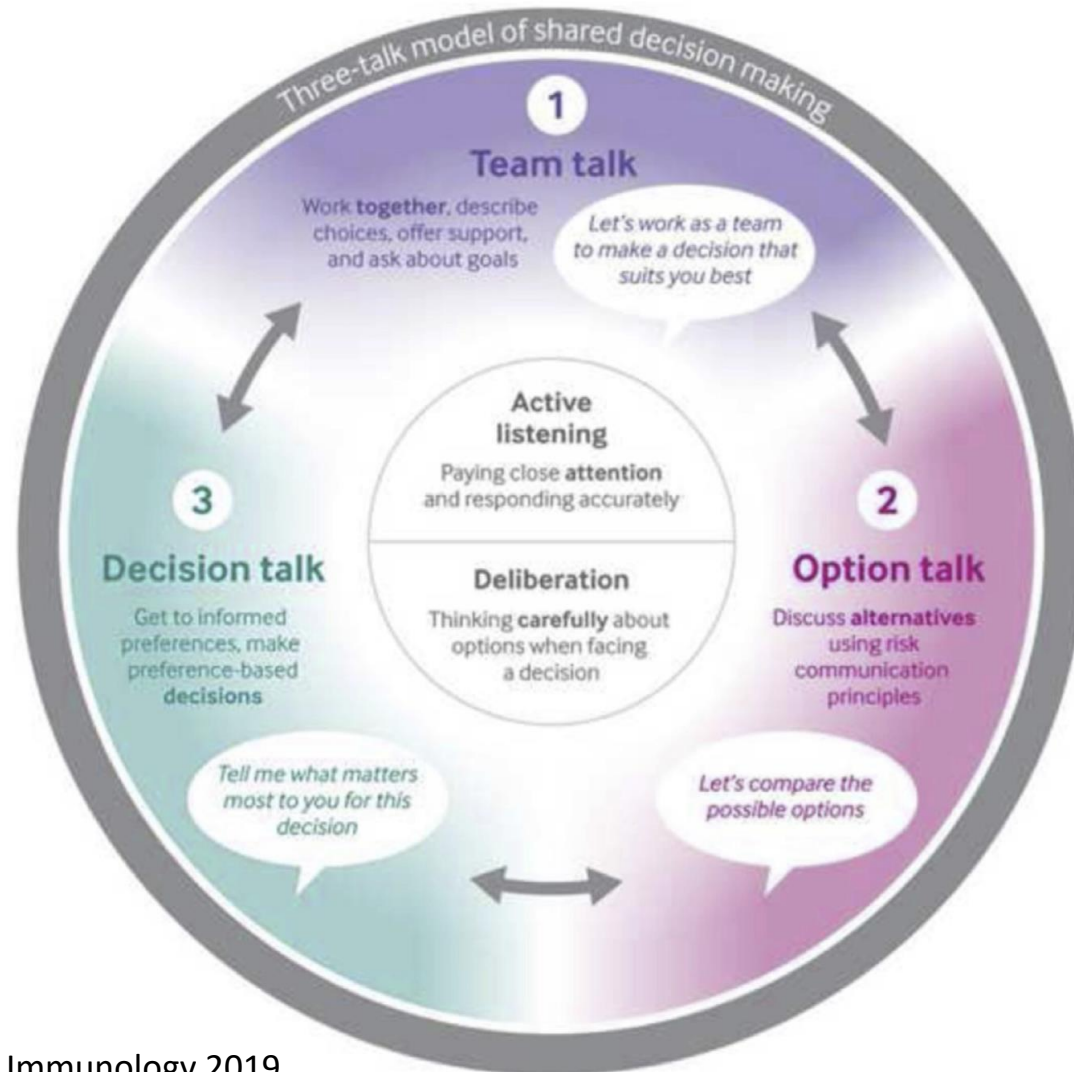


Risk-framing is key to understand significance of rare events

Shared Decision Making and Risk

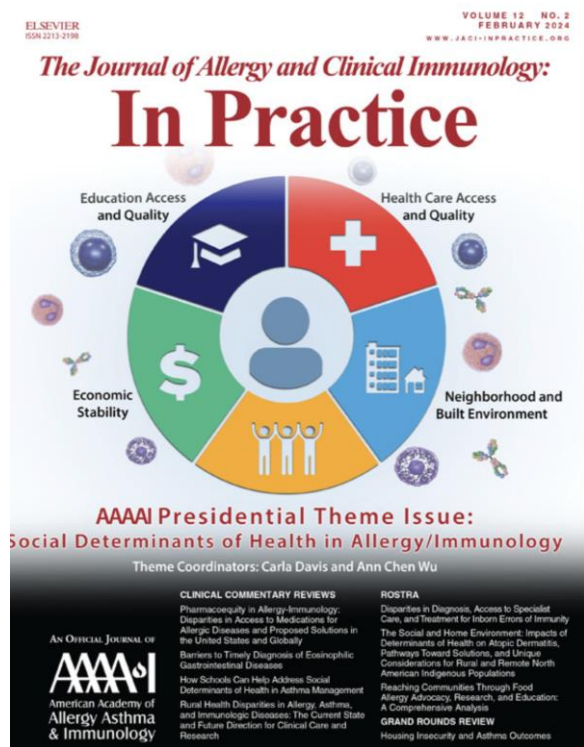
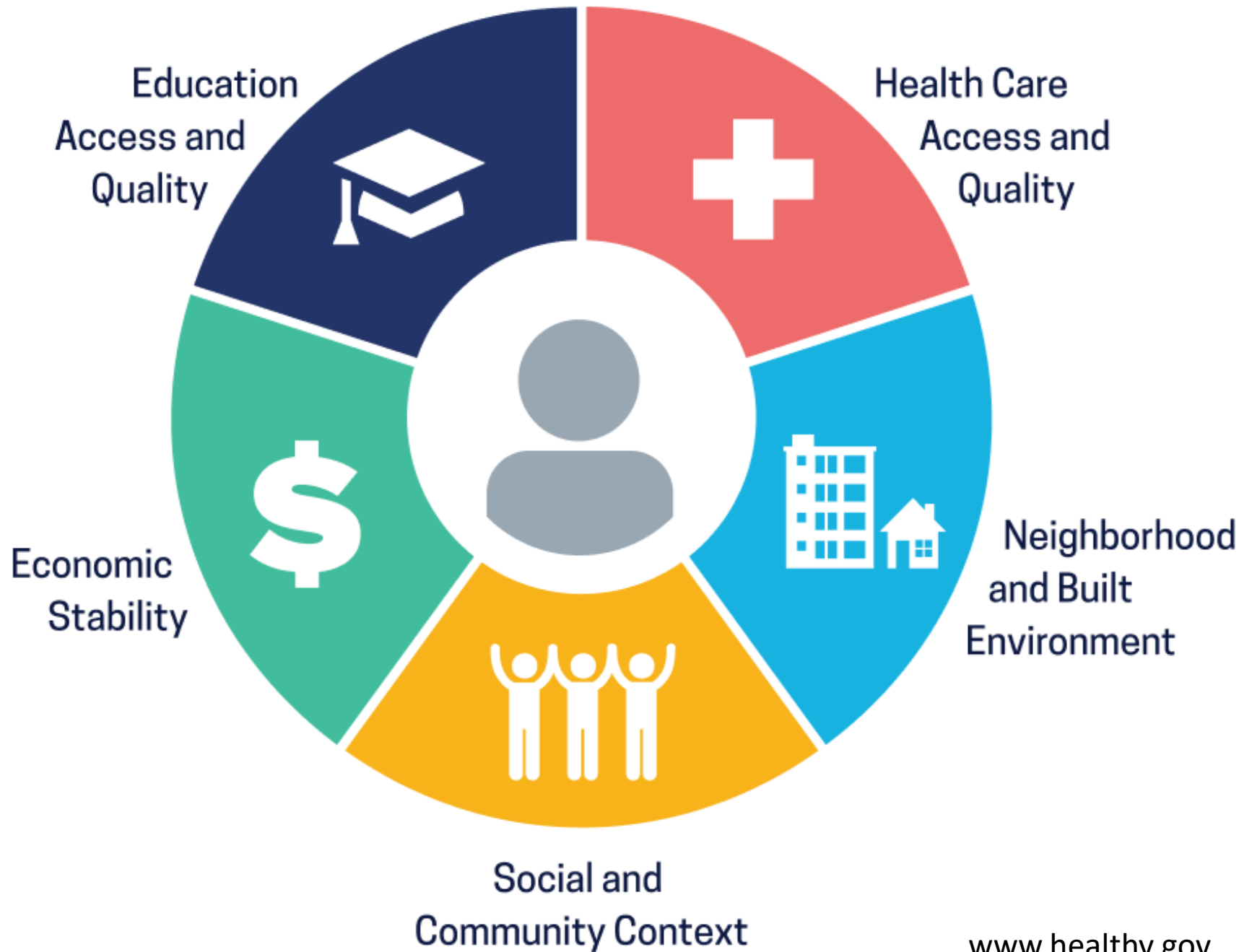


**Patient
Expertise in their
Values and
Preferences**

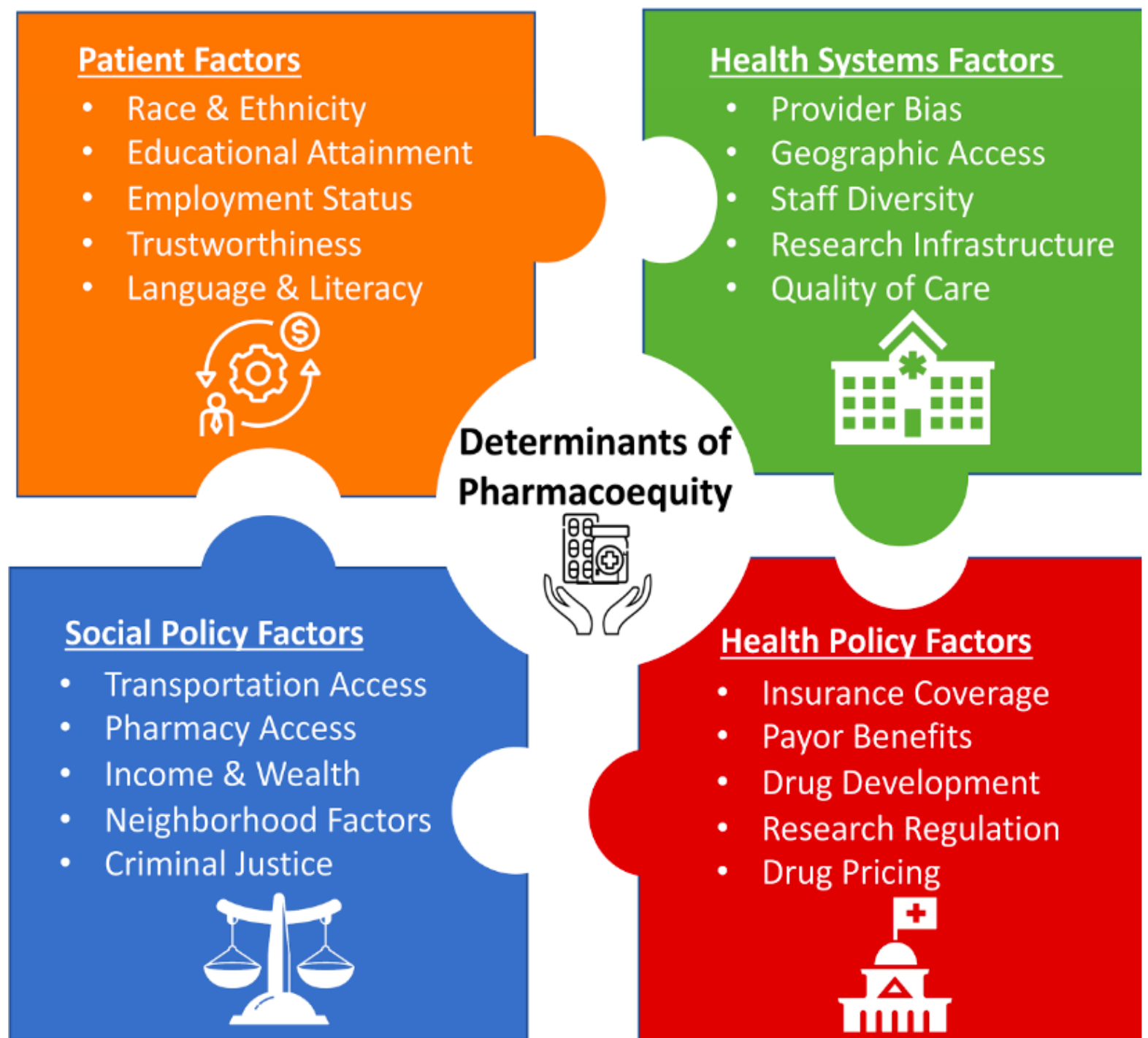


**Clinician
Expertise and
Experience in
Clinical Science**

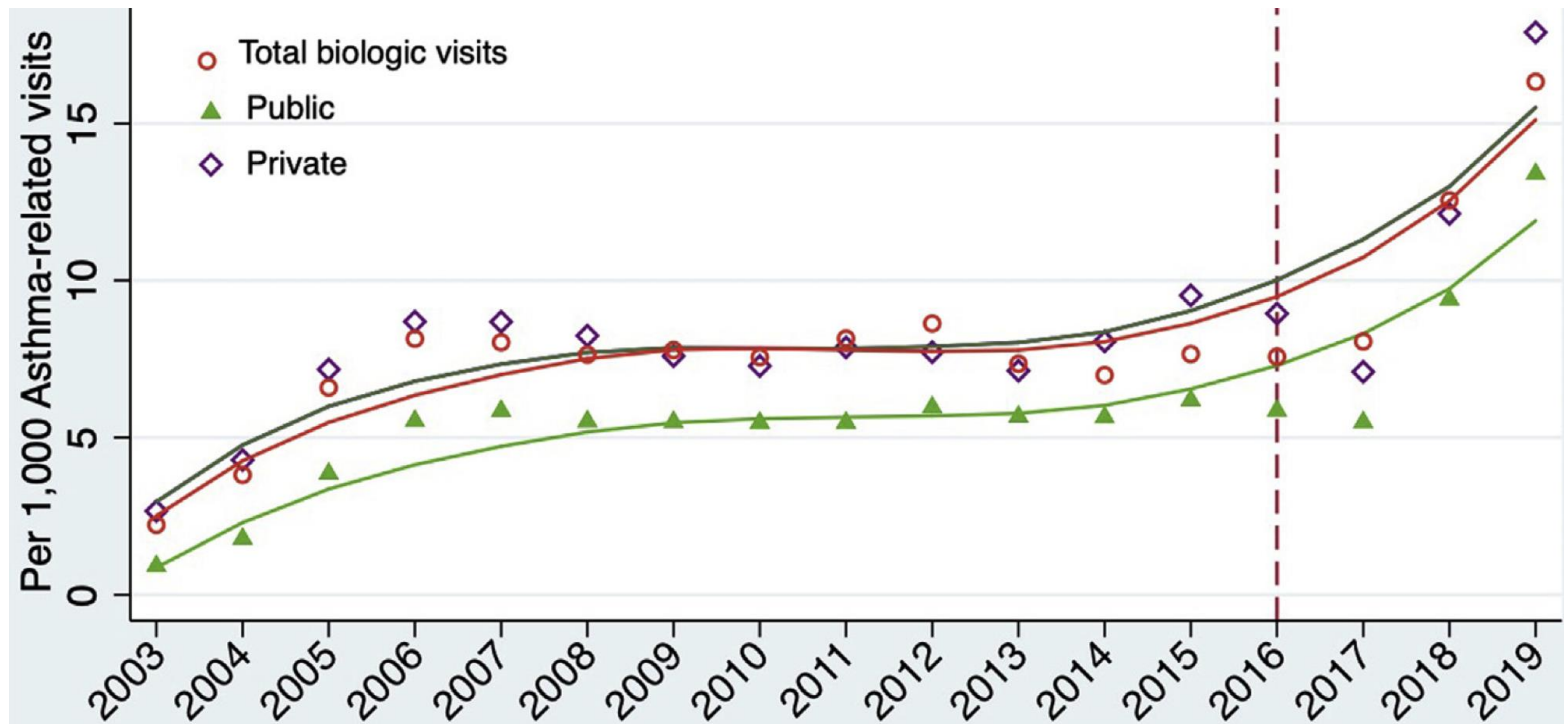
Social Determinants of Health



Multilevel Determinants of Pharmacoequity



Pharmacoequity and race



Akenroye et al. JACI IP 2021

- In a 2021 evaluation of the IQVIA (a sample of 3,700-4,100 office-based physicians) national database no biologics were recorded for those without insurance
- Biologic use is lower in those publicly insured
- Among the publicly insured, Black patients are particularly under-represented compared to White patients

Cost-Effectiveness of Biologics for Allergic Diseases



Ann Chen Wu, MD, MPH^a, Anne L. Fuhlbrigge, MD, MSc^b, Maria Acosta Robayo, BA^a, and Marcus Shaker, MD, MSc^{c,d}
Boston, Mass; Aurora, Colo; and Lebanon and Hanover, NH

Agent	Price*	Value-based*
Reslizumab	\$28,900	\$6,500-10,400
Benralizumab	\$27,800	\$8,300-\$11,900
Omalizumab	\$28,900	\$9,000-\$13,300
Mepolizumab	\$29,500	\$9,200-\$13,400
Dupilumab	\$31,000	\$10,100-\$14,300

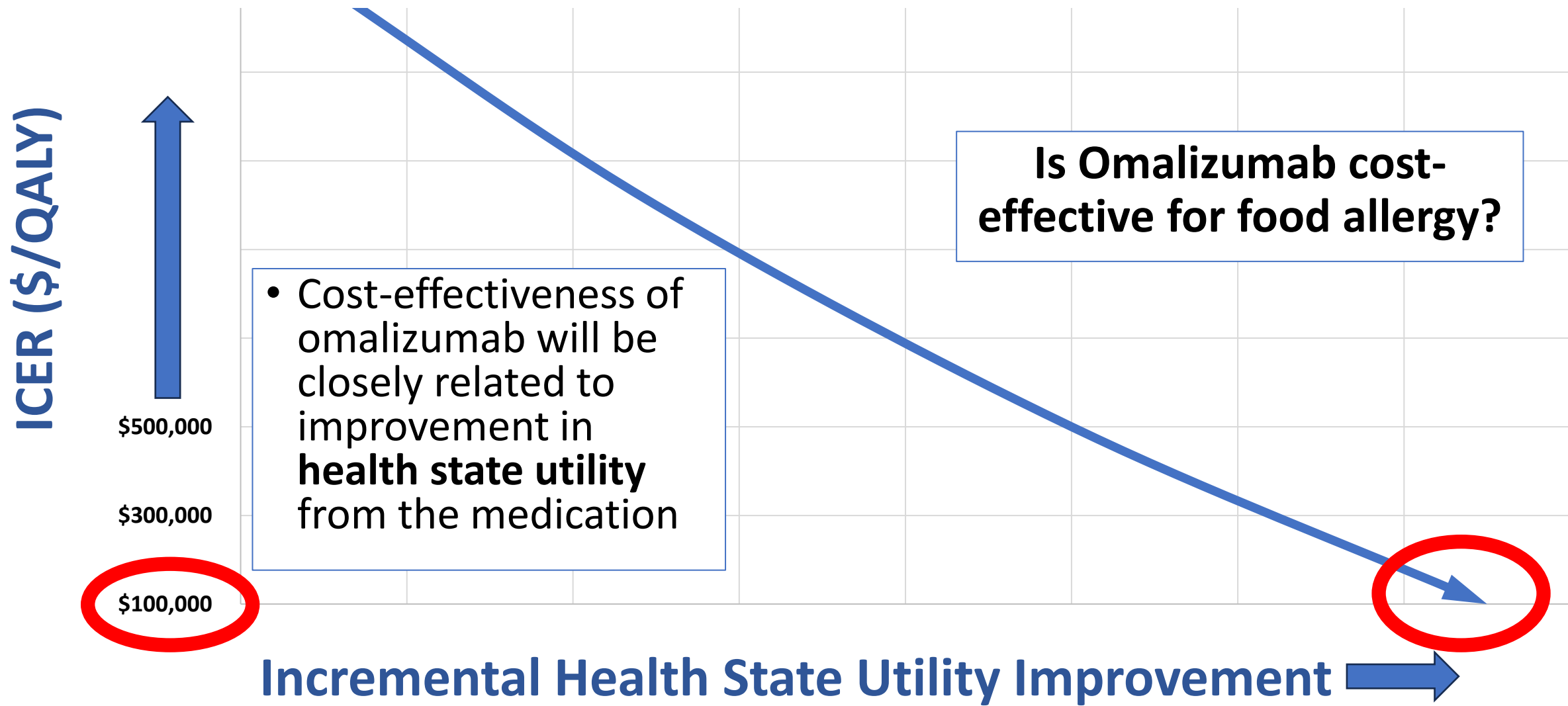
*Annual estimates by the Institute for Clinical & Economic Review 2018. ICERs \$100k-\$150k/QALY

Even value-based costs are too high!

*“Ultimately, critical medications must be **affordable** and available to patients who need them, and if this cannot be achieved, then the tremendous investment to discover specific pathways and develop safe and effective medications represents a failure to achieve our common goal to provide the right care, for the right patient, at the right time, every time.”*



Cost-Effectiveness of Biologics for Allergic Diseases



What is the Burden of Illness?

Patient Selection
is critical


An official website of the United States government [Here's how you know](#)

stopbullying.gov Search | Blog | Language

Bullying | Cyberbullying | Prevention | Resources | Kids | Get Help Now

**Prevention:
Learn how to
identify
bullying and
stand up to it
safely**

Become an upstander



Stop Bullying on the Spot

When adults respond quickly and consistently to bullying behavior they send the message that it is not acceptable. Research shows this can stop bullying behavior over time.

Parents, school staff, and other adults in the community can help kids prevent bullying by talking about it, building a safe school environment, and creating a community-wide bullying prevention strategy.

*Shemesh E, et al 2013
Annunziato et al 2014
Lieberman, Weiss et al 2010*

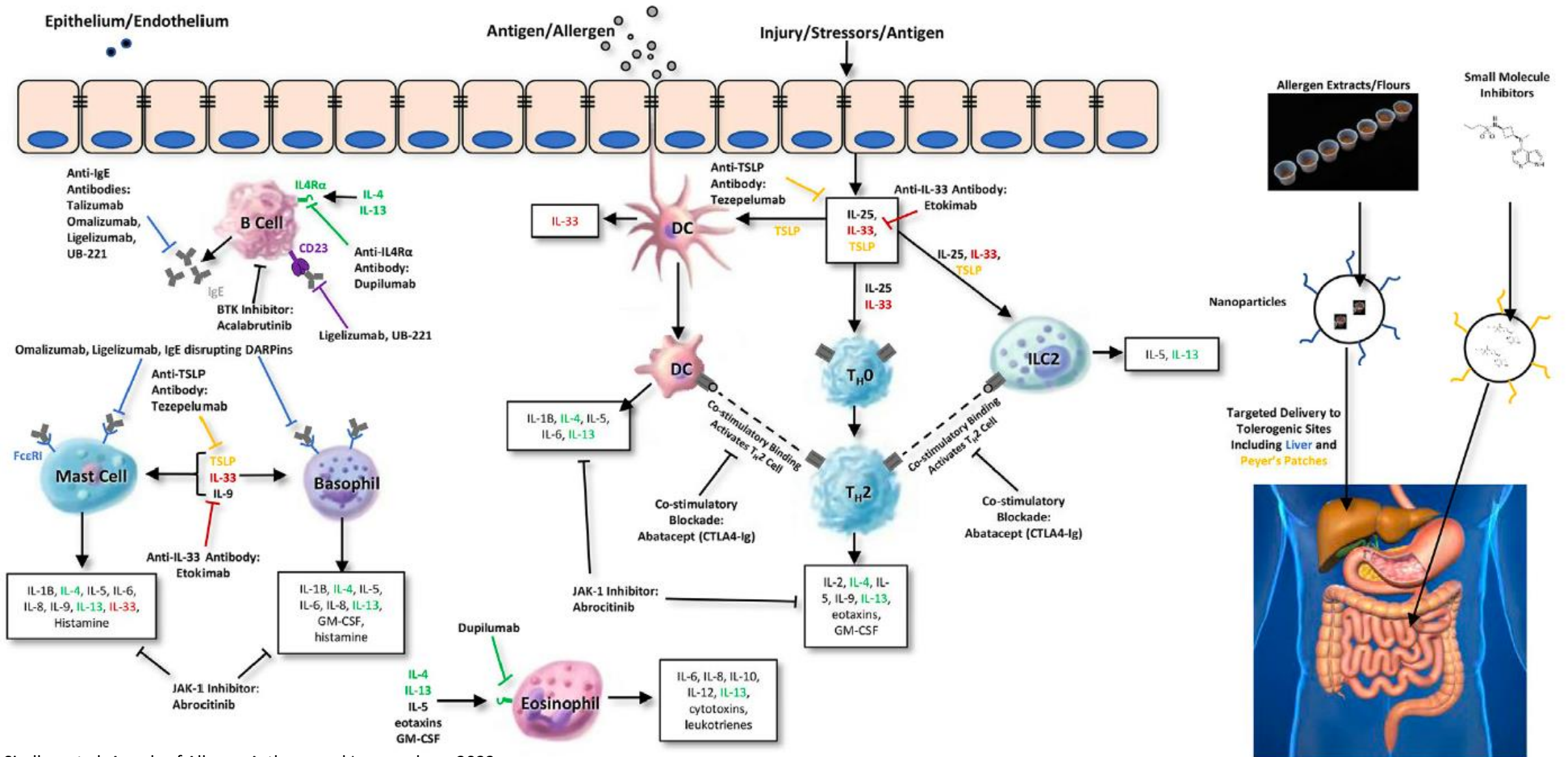
Variation will exist in
burden of illness for
the patient after non-
pharmacologic
interventions



Burden of Illness for Patient, Family, Community, Society



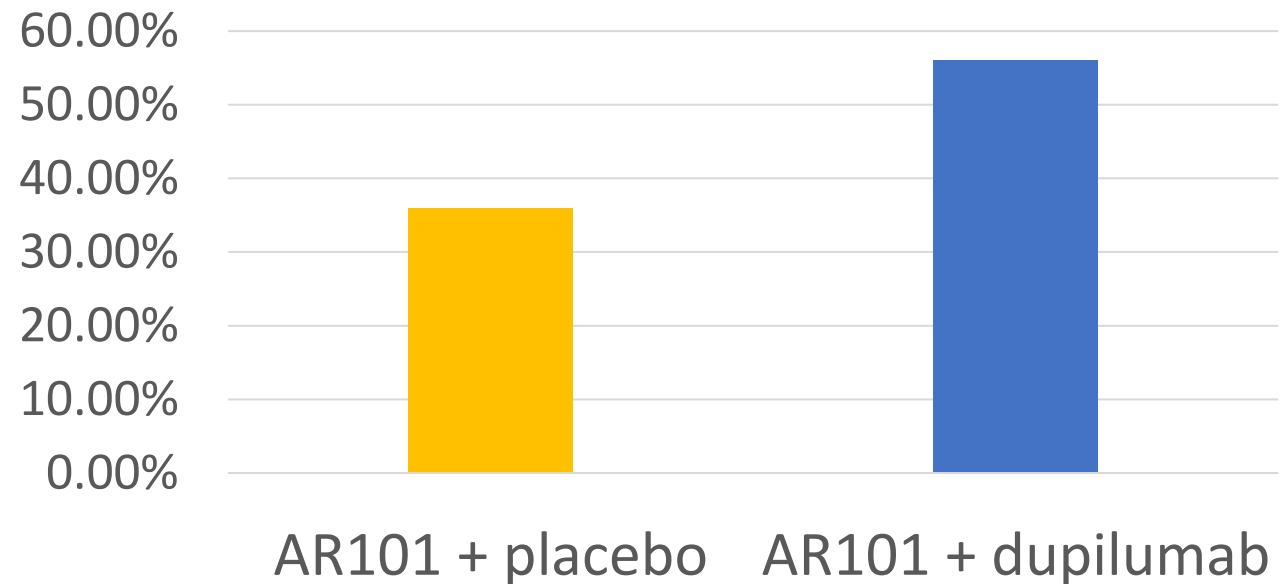
What will the future hold?



Study in Pediatric Subjects With Peanut Allergy to Evaluate Efficacy and Safety of Dupilumab as Adjunct to AR101 (Peanut Oral Immunotherapy)

- Phase 2 randomized DBPC study to assess indefinite use of dupilumab with OIT (children 6-17 years of age)
- Slight benefit from dupilumab in challenge outcome

DBPC OFC at 2044 mg peanut protein
(week 28-40)



35.90% (95% CI, 21.2% - 52.8%)

vs.

55.95% (95% CI, 44.7%-66.8%)



Take Home Points



Food allergy impacts patients, family, community and larger society

The benefits of effective and safe food allergy therapy must be considered from a societal perspective

Omalizumab may be safe and effective for some patients – but patient identification is complex



Thank You