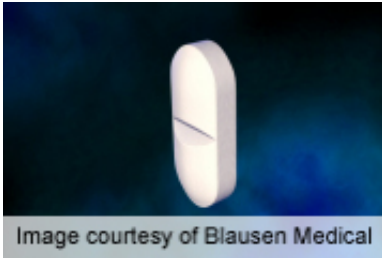


# Penicillin 'allergy' complicates inpatient care

March 18 2014

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(HealthDay)—Patients with a history of penicillin "allergy," even though that may be inaccurate, spend more time in the hospital and have a greater risk of acquiring antibiotic-associated infections, according to research published in the *Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology*.

Eric Macy, M.D., of the Southern California Permanente Medical Group in San Diego, and Richard Contreras, of the Kaiser Permanente Health Care Program in Pasadena, Calif., conducted a retrospective, matched cohort study involving 51,582 subjects with penicillin "allergy" who were admitted to Kaiser Foundation hospitals in Southern California in 2010 through 2012. Each subject was matched to two control subjects by age, sex, date of admission, and discharge diagnosis.

The researchers found that patients labeled with [penicillin allergy](#), compared with control subjects, averaged 0.59 more total hospital days (95 percent confidence interval [CI], 0.47 to 0.71). Case subjects

received treatment with significantly more of each of the following antibiotics: fluoroquinolones, clindamycin, and vancomycin. Compared with [control subjects](#), case subjects experienced more *Clostridium difficile* infections (23.4 percent; 95 percent CI, 15.6 to 31.7 percent), methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* infections (14.1 percent; 95 percent CI, 7.1 to 21.6 percent), and vancomycin-resistant *Enterococcus* infections (30.1 percent; 95 percent CI, 12.5 to 50.4 percent).

"A penicillin 'allergy' history, although often inaccurate, is not a benign finding at hospital admission," the authors write.

The Kaiser Permanente Health Care Program and ALK-Abelló funded the study. Both study authors disclosed financial ties to ALK-Abelló.

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Citation: Penicillin 'allergy' complicates inpatient care (2014, March 18) retrieved 4 May 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2014-03-penicillin-allergy-complicates-inpatient.html>

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