

# Longer needles recommended for epinephrine autoinjectors

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Photo courtesy: epipen.com

Given the increasing epidemic of obesity, epinephrine autoinjectors for anaphylaxis require longer needles to ensure intramuscular injection, according to a study published online Feb. 13 in *Allergy*.

(HealthDay)—Given the increasing epidemic of obesity, epinephrine autoinjectors (EAI) for anaphylaxis require longer needles to ensure intramuscular injection, according to a study published online Feb. 13 in *Allergy*.

Jamie Johnstone, from New Cross Hospital in Wolverhampton, U.K., and colleagues examined the depth of subcutaneous tissue in a population of patients with [anaphylaxis](#). The authors performed ultrasound and measurements of skin-to-muscle depth (STMD) at anterolateral thigh and anterior thigh in 28 patients (23 female; age range, 18 to 75 years) already prescribed EAI for anaphylaxis.

The researchers found that using the recommended administration site

of the anterolateral thigh, for 68 percent of patients the STMD was greater than the EAI needle length (15.02 mm). Female gender and [body mass index](#) over 30 kg/m<sup>2</sup> were key predictors for increased STMD.

"EAIs require longer needles to ensure intramuscular administration and ultrasound at point of prescription would aid needle length selection," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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