

Quality of life may drop for some during oral immunotherapy

May 30 2017



(HealthDay)—For patients with food allergy, quality of life (QOL)

following oral immunotherapy (OIT) improves for some but deteriorates in others, according to a study published online May 22 in *Allergy*.

Na'ama Epstein Rigbi, M.D., from Assaf Harofeh Medical Center in Zerifin, Israel, and colleagues administered the Food Allergy Quality of Life Questionnaire-Parent Form (FAQLQ-PF) to children aged 4 to 12 years undergoing OIT for milk, peanut, or egg [allergy](#). Questionnaires were administered at the beginning of treatment and after four months, and were categorized as improved, unchanged, or diminished. Patients with [food allergy](#) not undergoing OIT were included as controls.

The researchers found that during the study period there was improvement in the [food](#) anxiety, social and dietary limitations, and total FAQLQ-PF scores ($P = 0.001$, 0.018 , and 0.01 , respectively) in treated patients, but not in controls ($P = 0.75$, 0.93 , and 0.64 , respectively); there was no improvement in the emotional impact ($P = 0.17$). The change in FAQLQ-PF was not affected by the maximal tolerated dose, the pace of dose increase, or the number or severity of reactions. In multivariate analysis, there was an inverse association for the total FAQLQ-PF score with the score at baseline (P

"Patients with impaired QOL at baseline, improve significantly despite the treatment burden," the authors write. "Some [patients](#) with better QOL at baseline, might deteriorate during OIT."

More information: [Abstract](#)

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Citation: Quality of life may drop for some during oral immunotherapy (2017, May 30) retrieved 25 April 2024 from

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