SydPath
ST VINCENT'S PATHOLOGY

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ALLERGY TESTS INFORMATION SHEET

TEST	INDICATION	INTERPRETATION
SERUM IgE	• Allergic conditions • Recurrent infections • Helps distinguish allergy from infection in children	• High levels suggest atopic state • Very high levels in parasitic infestations and rare syndromes (lymphoma, some skin diseases)
ALLERGY SKIN TESTS	• Suspected atopy, eg asthma, rhinitis • Confirmation of suspected aetiological factor in allergic condition	• Positive prick test confirms clinical suspicion of reactivity to an allergen • Negative prick test excludes reactivity to allergen • This test should not be done with a history of anaphylaxis to an allergen without consultation • Should at least be done 3 days after cessation of antihistamines
RAST	• Always use allergy skin tests with relevant allergens as first line of assessment • For detection of IgE antibodies where skin tests are equivocal or inappropriate, eg anaphylactic reactions, extensive skin disease	• Positive test must be interpreted in light of history • Multiple positive results indicate atopic state