

Special Issue

Current Research on Preventing Eczema, Food Allergy and Sensitisation

Message from the Guest Editors

In the last decade, there has been a rapid advance in our knowledge of the induction of oral tolerance for the prevention of food allergy. We now have evidence of allergen-specific prevention of food allergy by the early introduction of egg and peanut. Despite these gains in knowledge we also know that early allergenic food introduction does not prevent eczema, and some infants are not able to tolerate the early introduction of allergenic foods with reactions on first oral exposure. This has led to growing awareness for the need to explore a range of other strategies to prevent early on-set allergic diseases. Trials are underway to test a range of interventions, including skin barrier interventions, vitamin D, probiotic and prebiotic supplementation, and modification of maternal diet. There is also a range of other prevention options being explored that remain at the pre-clinical and observational stage or have been trialed in small numbers of participants. In summary, our knowledge of the induction of tolerance and immune modulation is growing, and there is now a range of possible interventions for the prevention of food allergy.

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