

NEW HORIZONS — ALLERGY —

Improved diagnostic method for detecting sensitization to *Malassezia* in AEDS

Join us exploring the frontiers of allergy research

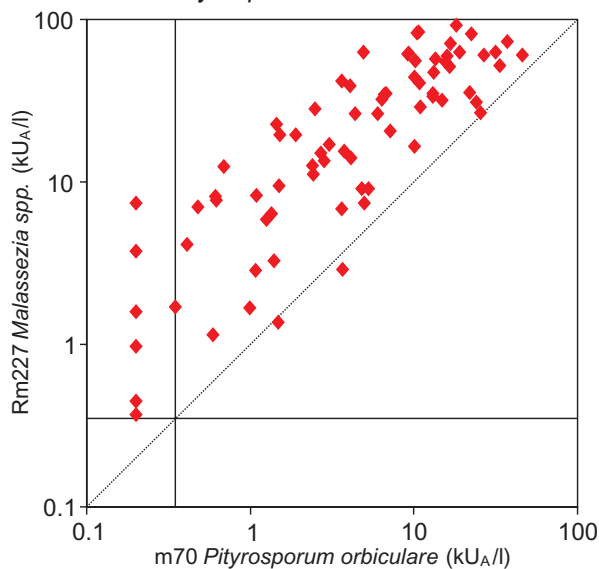
Clinical background

Members of the yeast genus *Malassezia* (previously designated *Pityrosporum*) are believed to be a contributing factor in the atopic eczema/dermatitis syndrome (AEDS). The yeast cell involvement in the disease mechanism is not fully understood, but probably includes interaction between antigen-presenting cells such as Langerhans cells and the yeast or its allergenic components. Antigen presentation to other cells in the immune system will then occur, causing a T cell response and IgE production. Testing for IgE antibodies to *Malassezia* can therefore be a useful tool in the investigation of the disease and in sensitized patients anti-fungal treatment may improve the eczema and thereby also decrease the allergen-specific IgE level. As there are several *Malassezia* species, the use of allergen preparations from only one species may not be sufficient to detect IgE antibodies to *Malassezia* in all sensitized patients. A mixture of some relevant *Malassezia* species has been shown to improve the sensitivity of testing for IgE sensitization.

Rm227 *Malassezia* spp. – new ImmunoCAP® for IgE antibody testing

The IgE antibody test for *Pityrosporum orbiculare* (m70) has since long time been available and now the improved Rm227 *Malassezia* spp. is introduced, which more accurately represents the relevant sensitizing allergens found in patients with AEDS.

Correlation between new *Malassezia* spp. and *Pityrosporum orbiculare*



ImmunoCAP® results from 76 selected Rm227 *Malassezia* spp. positive sera, from patients with AEDS, are quantitatively (kU_A/l) compared to ImmunoCAP® results from testing with m70 *Pityrosporum orbiculare*.

- Generally higher test results (kU_A/l)
- 6 of the tested sera converted from a negative to a positive result

The new ImmunoCAP® Rm227 *Malassezia* spp. seems to be more sensitive and useful in detecting *Malassezia* sensitization in patients with AEDS

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