

Table 3 Prevalence of positive skin prick test among all allergic rhinitis patients and patients with at least 1 positive test by characteristics of sensitized patients

Aeroallergens	+ve skin prick tests			Age (years)		Duration of allergic rhinitis		Male				No. (%) smokers ^o			
	All patients (n = 510)		Patients with at least 1 +ve test (n = 461)	+ve test	-ve test	+ve test	-ve test	+ve test		-ve test		+ve test		-ve test	
	No.	%	%	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	Mean (SD)	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
House dust mites															
<i>Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus</i>	168	32.9	36.4	30.6 (10.7)	35.9 (13.5)*	5.8 (4.2)	6.6 (5.6)	61	36.3	117	39.9	106	63.1	166	56.7
<i>Dermatophagoides farinae</i>	110	21.6	23.9	33.8 (11.4)	34.0 (13.2)	6.7 (5.5)	6.2 (5.1)	41	37.3	137	39.0	61	55.5	211	60.1
Mould & yeasts															
<i>Aspergillus mix</i> ^a	120	23.5	26.0	33.4 (12.4)	34.2 (12.9)	6.0 (4.5)	6.4 (5.4)	37	30.8	141	41.3	70	58.3	202	59.2
<i>Penicillium mix</i> ^b	135	26.5	29.3	32.4 (11.2)	34.6 (13.3)	5.8 (4.9)	6.5 (5.2)	55	40.7	123	37.7	77	57.0	195	59.8
<i>Cladosporium mix</i> ^c	95	18.6	20.6	33.4 (11.2)	34.1 (13.2)	6.0 (5.3)	6.0 (5.1)	39	41.1	139	38.0	55	57.9	217	59.3
<i>Alternaria alternata</i>	86	16.9	18.7	33.5 (11.8)	34.1 (13.0)	6.3 (5.7)	6.3 (5.0)	35	40.7	143	38.1	50	58.1	222	59.2
Animal dander															
Cat	212	41.6	46.0	31.5 (11.5)	36.1 (13.4)*	6.0 (4.6)	6.6 (5.6)	83	39.2	95	38.2	125	59.0	147	59.0
Feather mix ^d	109	21.4	23.6	32.3 (11.6)	34.5 (13.1)	6.4 (5.7)	6.3 (5.0)	54	49.5	124	35.2*	71	65.1	201	57.1
Grass pollens mix ^e	262	51.4	56.8	33.3 (12.5)	34.9 (13.1)	6.5 (5.1)	6.0 (5.2)	103	39.3	75	37.7	150	57.3	122	61.3
Cereal pollens mix ^f	207	40.6	44.9	34.7 (13.0)	33.4 (12.6)	6.8 (5.5)	5.9 (4.8)	87	42.0	91	35.8	119	57.5	153	60.2
Weed pollens															
Compositae ^g	94	18.4	20.4	33.2 (11.5)	34.1 (13.1)	6.1 (5.0)	6.4 (5.2)	39	41.5	139	37.9	58	61.7	214	58.3
Chenopodiaceae ^h	84	16.5	18.2	34.0 (13.2)	33.9 (12.7)	6.7 (5.3)	6.2 (5.1)	36	42.9	42	37.7	44	52.4	228	60.5
Thistleweed ⁱ	239	46.9	51.8	33.9 (12.9)	34.0 (12.7)	6.8 (5.6)	5.7 (4.5)	98	41.0	80	36.0	139	58.2	133	59.9

Wall pellitory ⁱ	128	25.1	27.8	34.2 (11.3)	33.8 (13.3)	6.0 (5.3)	6.4 (5.1)	49	38.3	129	38.7	77	66.2	195	58.6
Tree pollens															
Cypress ^k	119	23.3	25.8	35.0 (12.6)	33.6 (12.8)	6.0 (4.5)	6.4 (5.4)	46	38.7	132	38.6	75	63.0	197	57.6
Fagaceae ^l	75	14.7	16.3	34.0 (12.3)	33.9 (12.9)	6.6 (4.2)	6.3 (5.3)	30	40.0	148	38.3	44	58.7	228	59.1
Olive ^m	231	45.3	50.1	33.9 (12.6)	34.0 (13.0)	6.6 (5.0)	6.0 (5.3)	88	38.1	90	39.1	137	59.3	135	58.7
Betulaceae ⁿ	154	30.2	33.4	34.6 (12.8)	33.6 (12.8)	6.2 (5.0)	6.4 (5.2)	57	37.0	121	39.4	94	61.0	178	58.0

^a*Aspergillus fumigatus, Aspergillus nidulans, Aspergillus niger*; ^b*Penicillium digitatum, Penicillium expansum, Penicillium notatum*; ^c*Cladosporium cladosporioides, Cladosporium herbarum*; ^dDuck, goose, hen; ^e12 grasses mix (bent grass, bermuda grass, bromus, cocksfoot, meadow fescue, meadow grass, oat grass, rye grass, sweet vernal grass, timothy, wild oat, yorkshire fog); ^f4 cereals mix (oat, wheat, barley, maize); ^gGolden rod, dandelion, oxeye daisy, cocklebur; ^hFat hen, rough pigweed; ⁱ*Salsola kali*; ^j*Parietaria judaica*; ^k*Cupressus sempervirens*; ^lChestnut, oak, beech; ^m*Olea europaea*; ⁿBirch, alder, hornbeam, hazel.

^oThis includes current active and passive smokers.

* $P < 0.003$ was selected as the cut-off point for significance because of multiple comparisons.

SD = standard deviation.