

Infant vs. Toddler Reaction Severity During Oral Food Challenges

Maria Katerina C. Alfaro¹
 Katie Kennedy¹
 Zachary C. Spergel²
 Stacy L. Dorris³
 Jonathan M. Spergel¹
 Peter Capucilli¹

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia¹, Philadelphia, PA;
 Union County Magnet High School², Scotch Plains, NJ;
 Vanderbilt University Medical Center³, Nashville, TN

Introduction

- Few studies have investigated food allergy (FA) reaction severity in children under the age of 2 years during oral food challenges (OFCs).

Methods

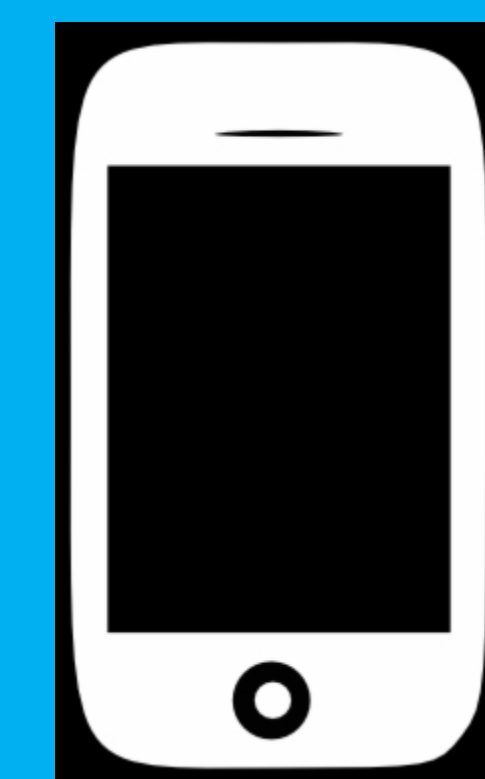
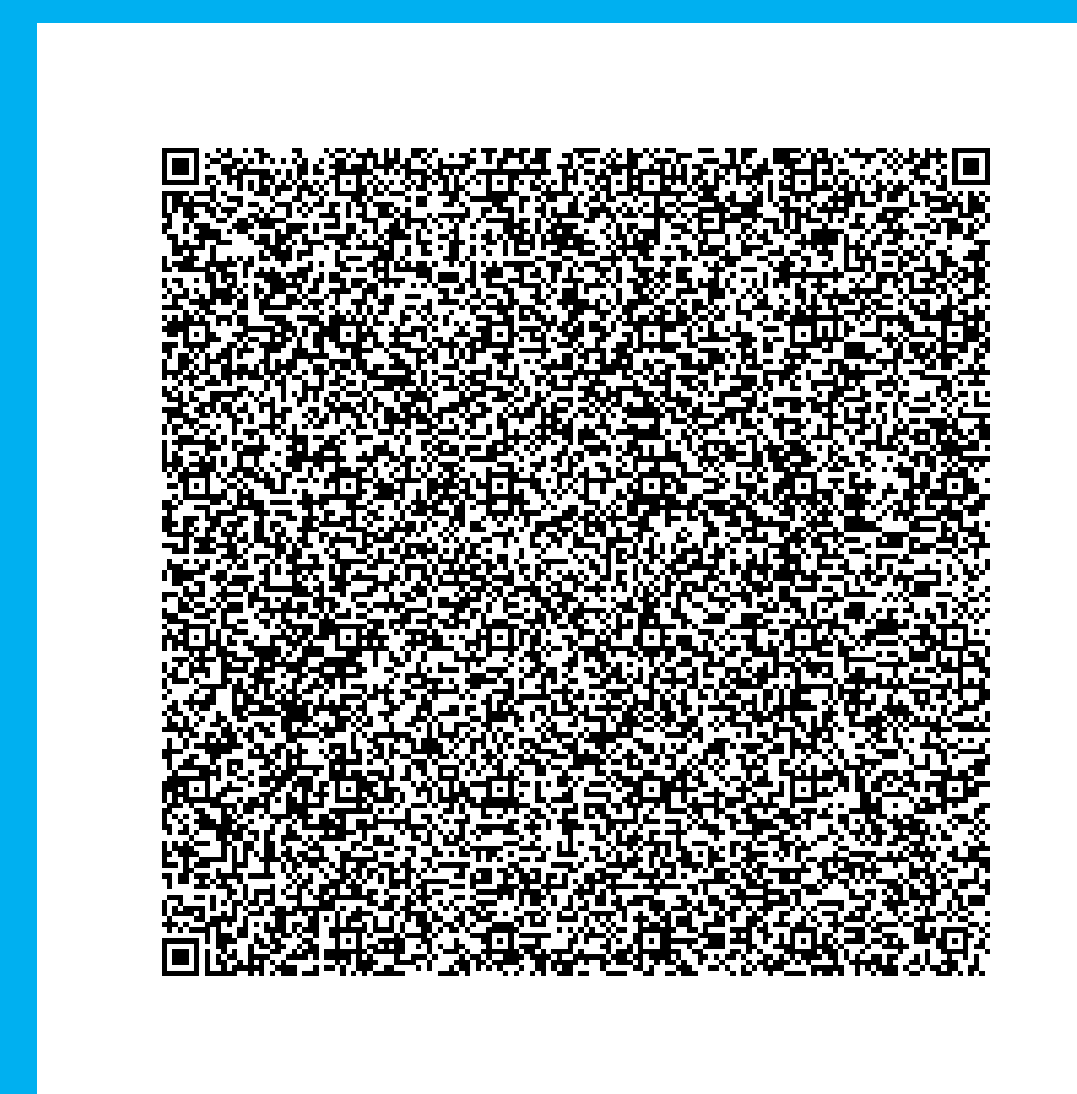
- Retrospective chart review of OFCs conducted at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and Vanderbilt University Medical Center.
- Total and individual scores on PRACTALL Bock Scale and CoFAR Anaphylaxis Severity Score were compared between infants (0-1 years) and toddlers (1-2 years).

Results

- For both PRACTALL Bock and CoFAR, there were no statistically significant differences in symptom severity between infants and toddlers.
- No infants under the age of 1 year met PRACTALL Bock Scale criteria for any cardiovascular and/or neurologic systems.
- No patients in either cohort met CoFAR scoring Grade 4 or 5 reaction criteria.

Infants and toddlers undergoing oral food challenges are less likely to meet severe reaction criteria, supporting early exposure to foods.

Most reactions involved either cutaneous and/or gastrointestinal symptoms.



Scan QR code to read full abstract

Table 1

System involvement between infant and toddler cohorts using PRACTALL Bock Scale.

Overall lesser system involvement for children challenged under the age of 2 years.

The 5 body systems include cutaneous, upper respiratory, lower respiratory, gastrointestinal, and cardiovascular/neurologic.

# Systems Involved (n = 5)	Infants (n = 96)	Toddlers (n = 67)	% Total (n = 163)
1	33	31	39.3
2	34	14	29.4
3	19	14	20.2
4	10	7	10.4
5	0	1	0.6

Table 2

Reaction severity between infant and toddler cohorts using CoFAR Anaphylaxis Severity Score.

Overall lower reaction grading for children challenged under the age of 2 years.

CoFAR Grade	Infants (n = 96)	Toddlers (n = 67)	% Total (n = 163)
1	31	26	35.0
2	57	36	57.1
3	8	5	8.0
4	0	0	0.0
5	0	0	0.0

