

TREATMENT FOR ALLERGIES WITH ALLERGY SHOTS

PURPOSE OF ALLERGY SHOTS

To decrease your sensitivity to allergy causing substances, so exposure to offending allergens (pollen, mold, mites, animals, etc...) will result in fewer and less severe symptoms.

INDICATIONS FOR ALLERGY SHOTS

You must be allergic to one or more environmental substance that you cannot avoid. You may have hay fever or asthma that occurs upon exposure to the suspected allergen.

EFFECTIVENESS OF ALLERGY SHOTS

Improvement in your symptoms may not be immediate. It usually requires 3 to 6 months before any relief of allergy symptoms is noted, and it may take 12 to 24 months for full benefits to be evident.

RECEIVING ALLERGY SHOTS

Injections are usually begun at a very low dose. This dosage is gradually increased on a regular basis (usually weekly), until the maintenance dose is reached. The maintenance dose differs by person.

DURATION OF TREATMENT

It usually takes at least 3 to 6 months to reach maintenance dose. Time may be longer if there are allergy shot reactions or injections are not received on a regular basis. For this reason, it is important that the recommended schedule of injections be followed.

If you cannot receive regular injections, immunotherapy should not be started. Allergy injections may be discontinued at the discretion of the physician if injections are frequently missed, as there is an increased risk of reactions under these circumstances.