

Immunological Disorders

Allergies are due to malfunctioning of the body's immune system, called immunological disorder, which causes the immune system to attack not just viruses, but also body tissues when come in contact with different external substances such as soap, detergents or tobacco smoke.

Many skin diseases are caused by immunological disorders, the most common of which is eczema prevalent among children.

Eczema is characterised by dry, red, extremely itchy patches on the skin which when scratched will look like a rash.

It can occur on just about any part of the body. In infants, eczema typically occurs on the forehead, cheeks, forearms, legs and neck. It is not infectious.

Immunological disorder can also cause a person to be allergic to different foods. About five per cent of Hong Kong children have this problem. They are often allergic to chicken eggs, cow's milk, peanuts, tree nuts, fish, shellfish, soya bean and wheat – the eight main food allergens.

Another allergic reaction, called Anaphylaxis, can cause death. It can happen in people with allergies or asthma. Most often it is triggered by foods, insect bites or medicines.

Doctors will prescribe intramuscular adrenaline injections for patients with anaphylaxis. If a child with anaphylaxis has difficulty breathing, or whose blood pressure has fallen dangerously low, consult a doctor immediately.