

Comparison on Puncture Skin Test (PST) Reactivity to Standardized D. Farinae (DF) Extracts at 30,000 AU/mL (30k) and 10,000 AU/mL (10k)

J Jones, MT (ASCP); N Wallen, MD, Spokane, Washington

It has been reported that PST with DF at 10k may produce false positive PST reactions. To determine the relative specificity and sensitivity of PST with DF, we reviewed skin test data from patients with a history of allergic rhinitis. We identified 37 atopic patients who had positive PST (diameter erythema=histamine control +/- 5 mm) to DF. 18 of these had positive PST to DF at both 30k and 10k. The remaining 19 (51%) had positive PST at 30k only.

To determine if DF at 30K produced false positive PST, we identified 32 non-atopic patients with no history of allergic rhinitis and performed PST using DF at 30k. Positive PST occurred in only 2 patients (6%).

Assuming the rate of non-specific reactions occurs with equal frequency in atopic and non-atopic patients, the data suggests that PST with DF at 30k provides adequate specificity with increased sensitivity over testing with DF at 10k.