

## Anaphylaxis: Pathophysiology, Diagnosis and Management Clinical Challenges in Recognizing and Treating Anaphylaxis

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## Disclosures

In relation to this presentation, I declare the following, real or perceived conflicts of interest:

- Research support: Sunovion, Genetech, Shionogi
- Speakers Bureau: AstraZeneca, Genetech/Novartis


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## Learning Objectives


At the conclusion of the presentation, the attendees should be able to discuss the following:

- Recognize the most common triggers of anaphylaxis
- Understand how anaphylaxis presents to emergency departments
- Learn how to be prepared in a medical office to handle patients with anaphylaxis


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- MW is a 19 yo male who was first diagnosed with peanut protein allergy at 4 years old when he was given a PB&J sandwich and noticed itching in his mouth with generalized hives. 
- He was seen by an allergist at that time and Immunocap peanut sIgE was 28 KU/L.
- He was last seen 2 years ago, he reported that he was very careful to avoid eating peanuts, but he was eating almonds and walnuts without a problem. His ImmunoCap peanut sIgE was 45 KU/L.

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- Last week MW was at a party and ate some trail mix that he thought contained only tree nuts. Within 30 seconds he noticed a metal taste in his mouth, then he felt itching in his palms, which progressed rapidly into generalized hives with swelling of his lips. His epinephrine auto-injector was in his car. 
- His symptoms included throat irritation and he complained of difficulty taking a deep breath.
- What happened to MW?

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- What happened to MW? 
- Fortunately the EMTs arrived within 15 minutes and MA received epi IM. He was also given antihistamines and an IV was started since his BP was 100/50.
- On the way to the ER he was given another dose of epi.
- At the ER MW still had generalized hives, but his throat was feeling better and his breathing wasn't labored and his dizziness improved.

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## Questions about Anaphylaxis:

- What is the definition of anaphylaxis?
- What are the patterns of anaphylaxis?
- What are the most common signs & symptoms of anaphylaxis?
- Can we predict severity of subsequent anaphylaxis episodes?

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“The discovery of anaphylaxis is not at all the result of deep thinking, but of simple observation, almost accidental...”

C Richet, 1913.

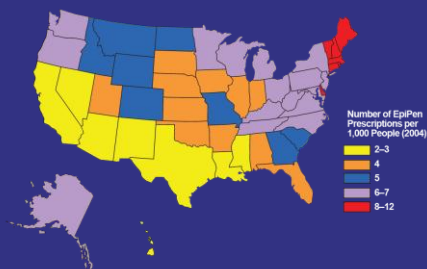
## Epidemiology of Anaphylaxis

- 1-15% of US population (2.8 to 42.7 million people) may be at risk (Yocum et al, Neugut et al)
  - 30/100,000 population/year (Yocum et al)
- Estimated annual incidence
  - 21/100,000 (Yocum et al)
- 0.95% of 1.2 million individuals in a claims database were dispensed injectable epinephrine
  - Rates ranged from 1.44% of patients <17 years old to 0.32% of patients >65 years
- Incidence of anaphylaxis is increasing

Sheikh et al, BMJ, 2000; Yocum et al, J Allergy Clin Immunol, 1999; Simons et al, J Allergy Clin Immunol, 2002; Neugut et al, Arch Int Med, 2001.

## Prevalence Data May Come From Epinephrine Auto-injector Prescriptions

Regional Differences in Epinephrine Auto-injector Usage



Camargo CA, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2007;120:131-136.

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### Definition of Anaphylaxis: Clinical Criteria for Diagnosing Anaphylaxis

Acute onset of an illness (minutes to several hours) with involvement of the skin, mucosal tissue, or both

AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Respiratory compromise (eg, dyspnea, wheeze-bronchospasm)
- Reduced BP or associated symptoms of end-organ dysfunction

NIAID, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease; FAAN, Food Allergy and Anaphylaxis Network; BP, blood pressure; SBP, systolic blood pressure. \*Low SBP for children is defined as <70 mm Hg from 1 month to 1 year, <70 mm Hg plus [2x age] from 1 to 10 years, and <90 mm Hg from 11 to 17 years. Sampson HA, et al. *Ann Emerg Med.* 2006;47:373-380. *Second Symposium on the Definition and Management of Anaphylaxis: J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2006;117:391-7

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### Definition of Anaphylaxis: Clinical Criteria for Diagnosing Anaphylaxis

Acute onset of an illness (minutes to several hours) with involvement of the skin, mucosal tissue, or both

OR

≥2 of the following that occur rapidly after exposure to a **likely** allergen (minutes to several hours):

AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Respiratory compromise (eg, dyspnea, wheeze-bronchospasm)
- Reduced BP or associated symptoms of end-organ dysfunction

- Involvement of the skin-mucosal tissue (eg, generalized hives, itch-flush, swollen lips-tongue-uvula)
- Respiratory compromise
- Reduced BP or associated symptoms
- Persistent gastrointestinal symptoms (eg, cramping, abdominal pain, vomiting)

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### Definition of Anaphylaxis: Clinical Criteria for Diagnosing Anaphylaxis

Acute onset of an illness (minutes to several hours) with involvement of the skin, mucosal tissue, or both

OR

≥2 of the following that occur rapidly after exposure to a **likely** allergen (minutes to several hours):

OR

Reduced BP after exposure to **known** allergen (minutes to several hours):

AND AT LEAST ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Respiratory compromise (eg, dyspnea, wheeze-bronchospasm)
- Reduced BP or associated symptoms of end-organ dysfunction

- Involvement of the skin-mucosal tissue (eg, generalized hives, itch-flush, swollen lips-tongue-uvula)
- Respiratory compromise
- Reduced BP or associated symptoms
- Persistent gastrointestinal symptoms (eg, cramping, abdominal pain, vomiting)

a. Infants and children: low SBP (age specific) or >30% decrease in SBP\*

b. Adults: SBP of <90 mm Hg or >30% decrease from that person's baseline

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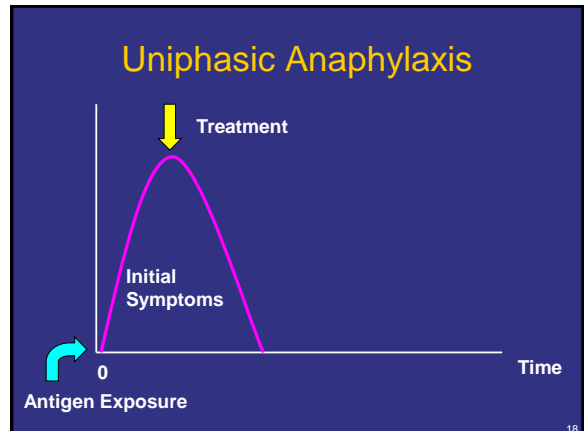
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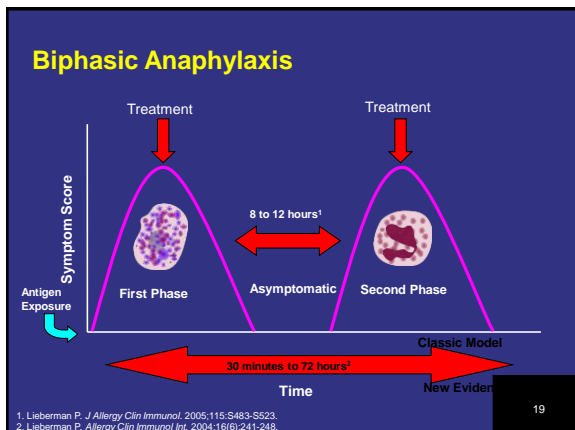
### Patterns of Anaphylaxis

- Uniphasic
  - Symptoms resolve within hours of treatment
- Biphasic
  - Symptoms resolve after treatment but return between 1 and 72 hours later (usually 1-3 hours)
- Protracted
  - Symptoms do not resolve with treatment and may last >24 hours

Lieberman, 2004

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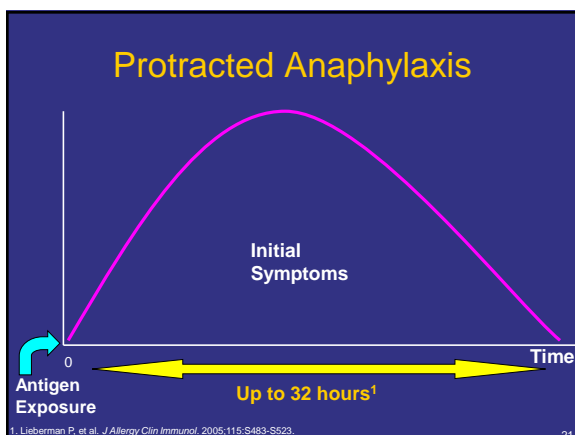




### Biphasic Anaphylaxis

- Incidence reported: 16-36%
- Second response may be similar to, less severe or more severe than original episode
- Fatalities can occur, risk factors include:
  - Pt on  $\beta$ -blocker
  - Oral administration of antigen
  - Delay in onset of epinephrine administration
  - Presence of hypotension or laryngeal edema
  - Inadequate dose of epinephrine

Stark and Sullivan. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 1986; Lieberman. *Allergy Clin Immunol Int.* 2004; Ellis and Day. *Curr Allergy Asthma Rep.* 2003



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### Frequency and Occurrence of Signs and Symptoms of Anaphylaxis

Signs and Symptoms	Percent
<b>Cutaneous</b>	
Urticaria and angioedema	85-90
Flushing	45-55
Pruritus without rash	2-5
<b>Respiratory</b>	
Dyspnea, wheeze	45-50
Upper airway angioedema	50-60
Rhinitis	15-20
<b>Hypotension, dizziness, syncope, diaphoresis</b>	30-35
<b>Abdominal</b>	
Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, cramping pain	25-30
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Headache	5-8
Substernal pain	4-6
Seizure	1-2
Angor animi (sense of impending doom)	—

Lieberman P, et al. *J Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2010;126:477-480.

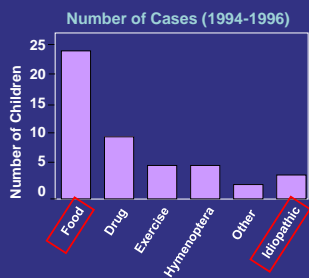
### In Adults, Most Cases Are Idiopathic and Females Predominate

- N = 601 cases
- 62% of cases were female
- 37% were atopic by history confirmed with skin test

Webb LM, Lieberman P. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2006;97(1):39-43.

### In Children, Most Cases Are Food-related and Males Predominate

- N = 46 cases (28 male, 18 female)
- Median age at 1st episode: 5.8 years
- Only small proportion idiopathic



Cianferoni A, et al. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol*. 2004;92:464-468.

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### Anaphylaxis in a New York City pediatric emergency department: Triggers, treatments, and outcomes

Faith Huang, MD, Kanwaljit Chawla, MD, Kirsi M. Järvinen, MD, PhD, and Anna Nowak-Węgrzyn, MD New York, NY

213 reactions in 192 children (97 males) 2004-2008  
Foods 71%, Drugs 9%, unknown 15%

28 (14%) hospitalized  
2 doses of epi in 13 (6%)  
of those 9 (69%) were hospitalized  
Those getting epi prior to arrival at PED lower rate of hosp (25%) vs 89% in those getting 2nd dose of epi in PED

*J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2012;129:162-8

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#### Conclusions:

- Food is main trigger
- Tx with 2 doses of epi is assoc ↑hosp
- Tx with epi prior to PED assoc ↓hosp
- Medicaid less likely to receive epi prior to PED

*J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2012;129:162-8

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### Anaphylaxis in emergency department patients 50 or 65 years or older

Ronna L. Campbell, MD, PhD\*; John B. Hagan, MD†; James T. C. Li, MD, PhD†; Samuel C. Vukov\*; Abhijit R. Kanthala, MBBS\*; Vernon D. Smith, MD\*; Veena Manivannan, MBBS\*; M. Fernanda Bellolio, MD\*; and Wyatt W. Decker, MD\*

- 220 pts in ED, 4/2008-6/2010
- Medications 24% of pts >50yo
- Food most cmn (42%) in pts <50yo
- Food cause in 14% of >50yo
- >65yo more likely to have hypotension

*Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol* 2011;106:401-406

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#### Conclusions:

- Decreased likelihood of food trigger
- Increased likelihood of CV symptoms
- Decreased likelihood of going home from ED
- Decreased likelihood of Rx for SI-epi

*Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol* 2011;106:401-406

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### A population-based epidemiologic study of emergency department visits for anaphylaxis in Florida

Laurel Harduar-Morano, MPH\*; Michael R. Simon, MD\*; Sharon Watkins, PhD\*; and Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD\* Tallahassee, Fla, and Royal Oak and Detroit, Mich

- N=2751, 2005-2006
- Young male (0-4yo) 8.2/100K
- Adult female (15-54yo) 9.9/100K
- Trigger identified in 37%
  - Food 49%
  - Insect stings 29%
  - Medications 22%

*J Allergy Clin Immunol* 2011;128:594-600

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*Tallahassee, Fla, and Royal Oak and Detroit, Mich*

Conclusions:

- Relatively lower rate of anaphylaxis
- Children more likely food induced
- Males more likely venom, or medications
- Venom most cmn in Aug, Sept & Oct.
- Children less likely to have medication trigger compared to older pts

J Allergy Clin Immunol 2011;128:594-600 31

**Anaphylaxis with SCIT**

- Systemic reactions 0.25-1.3%
- Fatal reactions 1 in 2.5 million injections
- Near-fatal anaphylactic reactions 1 in 1 million injections
- Predisposing factors
  - Uncontrolled asthma
  - Repeated large local reactions

Lockey RF et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 1987;79:660-77  
Reid MJ, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 1993;92:6-15.  
Lockey RF, et al. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 2001;87:47-55.  
Bernstein DI, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2004;113:1129-36.

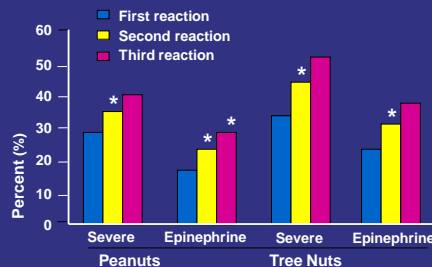
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**A Higher Proportion of Subsequent Reactions Are Severe**

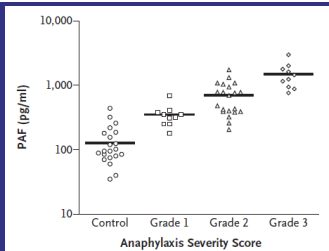


\*Indicates a reaction significantly greater than prior reaction ( $P < .05$ ).  
Data from the first 5,149 patients in a voluntary registry for peanut and tree nut allergy.

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**Platelet-Activating Factor, PAF Acetylhydrolase, and Severe Anaphylaxis**

Peter Vadas, M.D., Ph.D., Milton Gold, M.D., Boris Perelman, Ph.D., Gary M. Liss, M.D., Gideon Lack, M.D., Thomas Blyth, M.D., F. Estelle R. Simons, M.D., Keith J. Simons, Ph.D., Dan Cass, M.D., and Jupiter Yeung, Ph.D.



N Engl J Med 2008;358:28-35 35

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Conclusions:

- Circulating PAF is increased and PAF acetylhydrolase activity is decreased in proportion to the severity of organ system involvement in patients with acute allergic reactions.
- PAF acetylhydrolase was significantly lower in patients with fatal peanut anaphylaxis compared to those with milder reactions or controls.

N Engl J Med 2008;358:28-35 36

## What are Predisposing factors?

CONCOMITANT DISEASES*				
Asthma and other respiratory diseases	Cardiovascular diseases	Mastocytosis/clonal mast cell disorders	Allergic rhinitis and eczema**	Psychiatric illness (e.g. depression)
CONCURRENT MEDICATIONS/ETHANOL/RECREATIONAL DRUG USE*				
$\beta$ -adrenergic blockers and ACE inhibitors***		Ethanol/sedatives/hypnotics/antidepressants/recreational drugs (potentially affect recognition of anaphylaxis triggers and symptoms)		
CO-FACTORS THAT AMPLIFY ANAPHYLAXIS*				
Exercise	Acute infection (e.g. a cold or fever)	Emotional stress	Disruption of routine (e.g. travel)	Premenstrual status (females)

Simmons FER, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2011;127:587-93

## Fatal Anaphylactic Reactions Are Often Associated With:

- Delay between time of symptom onset and administration of treatment
- History of asthma
- Adverse therapeutic event
- However, most fatal reactions are unpredictable

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Pumphrey, Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol 2004; Sampson et al, N Engl J Med, 1992; Pumphrey, Clin Exp Allergy, 2000

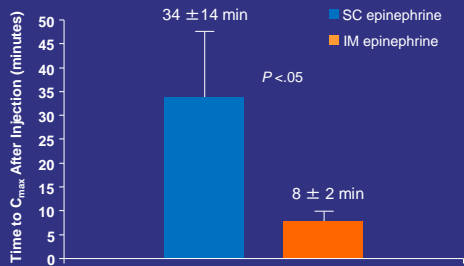
## Lack of Awareness Contributes to Inadequate Treatment

- Physicians often fail to diagnose anaphylaxis correctly
  - Can be confused with other conditions
    - Septic or other types of shock
    - Asthma
    - Airway obstruction with foreign body
    - Panic attacks
  - Failure to plan future management
- Lack of education contributes to low levels of physician awareness
- Inadequate knowledge of epinephrine and its use

Tang AW, Am Fam Physician 2003

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## Why IM Epinephrine? Absorption of Epinephrine Faster With IM vs SC Injection

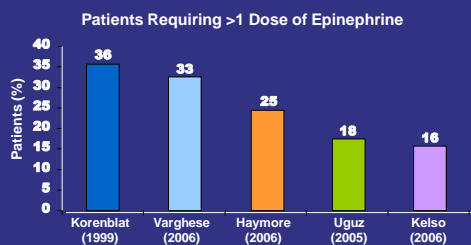


SC, subcutaneous; C<sub>max</sub>, maximum concentration.

Adapted from Simmons FER, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol, 2004;113:837-844.

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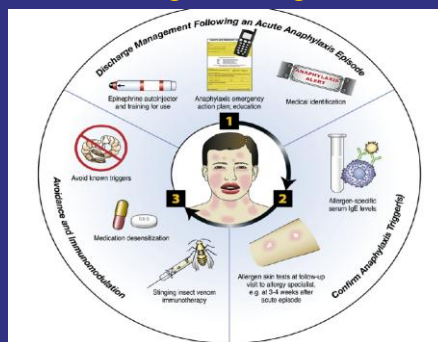
## Frequency of Need for 2 Doses of Epinephrine for Anaphylaxis



Korenblat P, et al. Allergy Asthma Proc. 1999;20:363-366;  
Varghese M, Liberman P. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2006;117(2, suppl):S305. Abstract 1178;  
Haymore BR, et al. Allergy Asthma Proc. 2005;26(5):361-365;  
Uguz A, et al. Clin Exp Allergy. 2005;35:746-750;  
Kelso JM. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2006;117(2):464-465.

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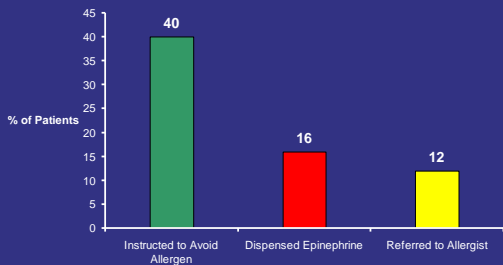
## Discharge management



Simmons FER, et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2011;127:587-93.

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### Inadequate Management Post ER for Food Anaphylaxis 21 ED over 12 months



Clark et al. J Allergy Clin Immunol, 2004

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### Recommended Office Management

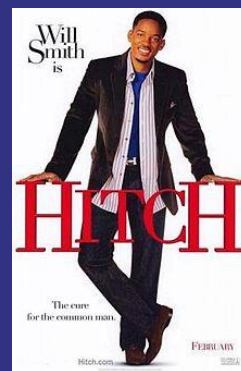
- Prompt recognition
- Epinephrine and oxygen are 'most important' therapeutic agents.
- Appropriate volume replacement
- Medical facilities should have an established action plan in place
- Physicians and office staff should maintain clinical proficiency in anaphylaxis management.

44J Allergy Clin Immunol 2010;126:477-80.

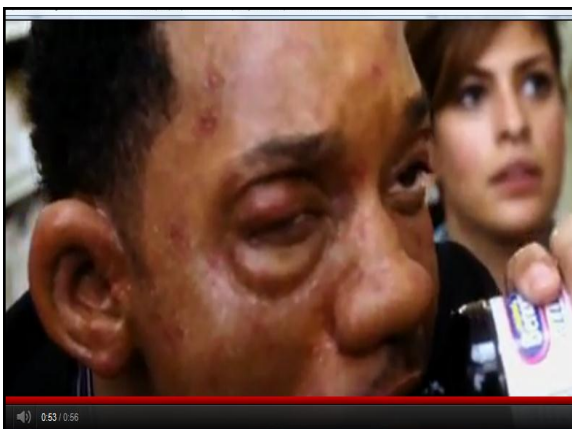
### Anaphylaxis Conclusions

- Anaphylaxis is a life-threatening acute reaction which is under-reported, frequently misdiagnosed, and under-treated
  - More common than previously thought
- Rapid and proper administration of epinephrine is the standard of treatment
  - Many patients require a second epinephrine injection to treat anaphylaxis
- Patient education needed – delays in treatment, improper administration and outdated epinephrine
- Physicians fail to properly diagnose and treat anaphylaxis – especially in the ED

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0:53 / 0:56



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## Anaphylaxis Action Plan

Available at: [www.aaaai.org](http://www.aaaai.org) or [www.aanma.org](http://www.aanma.org)

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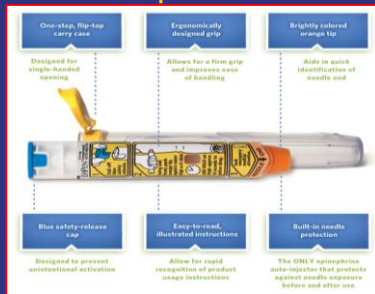
## Anaphylaxis Action Plan

Available at: [www.foodallergy.org/files/FAAP.pdf](http://www.foodallergy.org/files/FAAP.pdf)

The Food Allergy Action Plan is available at: <http://www.foodallergy.org/files/FAAP.pdf>

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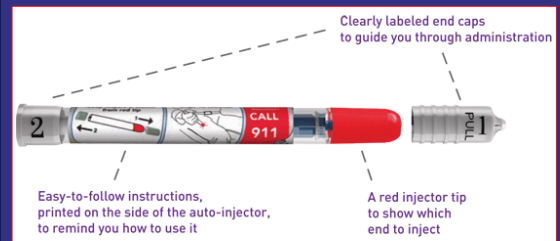
## Comparison of Auto-injectors: EpiPen



Available at: [http://www.epipen.com/pdf/EPI\\_HowToTearSheet.pdf](http://www.epipen.com/pdf/EPI_HowToTearSheet.pdf)

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## Comparison of Auto-injectors: Adrenaclick



Available at: <http://www.adrenaclick.com/about-adrenaclick/>

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## Comparison of Auto-injectors: Auvi-Q



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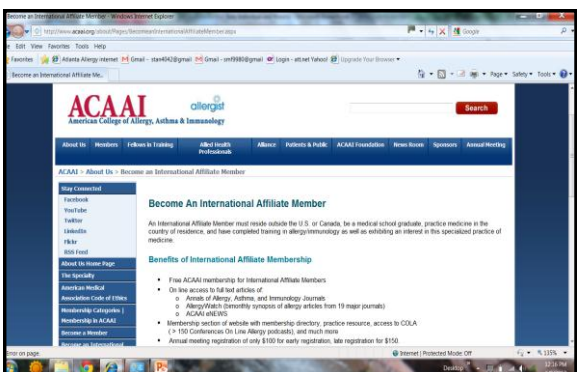
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- Learn how to be prepared in a medical office to handle patients with anaphylaxis

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The screenshot shows the ACAAI (American College of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology) website. The main heading is "Become An International Affiliate Member". Below this, it states: "An International Affiliate Member must reside outside the U.S. or Canada, be a medical school graduate, practice medicine in the country of residence, and have completed training in allergy/immunology as well as exhibiting an interest in this specialized practice of medicine." A "Benefits of International Affiliate Membership" section lists several advantages, including free ACAAI membership, on-line access to full-text articles of the Annals of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology Journals, AllergyWatch (a monthly synopsis of allergy articles from 19 major journals), ACAAI eNEWS, membership sections of website with membership directory, practice resource, access to CGLA, > 150 Conferences On-Line (allergy podcasts), and much more. Annual meeting registration is only \$100 for early registration, late registration for \$150.

Go to [www.acaaai.org](http://www.acaaai.org) and click 'About us, to become an International Affiliate Member

