

What side effects might I experience during RUSH?

All forms of allergen immunotherapy may result in allergic side effects. As you will be receiving an injection of a mixture of substances you are allergic to, there is a chance you will have an allergic reaction. The most common reactions include swelling and itching at the site of your injection. Some patients experience worsening runny nose, itchy and watery eyes, and nasal congestion. Patients with asthma may experience worsening of their asthma symptoms. Severe allergic reactions, or anaphylaxis, have rarely occurred. Symptoms that occur with anaphylaxis include hives, low blood pressure, diarrhea, and respiratory symptoms such as wheezing, which in rare cases may result in death. For a further description of reactions that may occur during RUSH, or with allergy shots in general, you should refer to the "Consent for Administration of Conventional Immunotherapy" you have received and signed.

How is RUSH different from conventional immunotherapy?

In conventional immunotherapy, allergy shots are given once or twice a week until a patient's maintenance dose is achieved. In general, this is accomplished in approximately 4-6 months, as opposed to the 2-4 months it may take a patient to achieve their maintenance dose when RUSH is performed. What are the potential risks of RUSH when compared with conventional immunotherapy? The potential risk with RUSH when compared with conventional immunotherapy is an increased occurrence of reactions to your allergy shot. In studies of the reaction rates experienced during RUSH, investigators have found an overall reaction rate of approximately 5-20%, whereas overall reaction rates with traditional immunotherapy are estimated at 1%. These reaction rates include both mild (more common) and severe (less common) reactions. The type of reactions patients experience are represented by, but not limited to, those described above. Additionally, RUSH patients have a slightly higher systemic reaction rate to their subsequent allergy shots, compared to conventional allergy shots.

What are the potential benefits of RUSH immunotherapy when compared with conventional immunotherapy?

There are several potential benefits of RUSH over conventional immunotherapy. RUSH usually allows you to achieve your maintenance dose more rapidly. This may allow you to begin experiencing the benefits of allergen immunotherapy sooner. Your time commitment may be decreased, as RUSH requires fewer visits to our office. Additionally, you may receive fewer injections in total than you would receive with conventional immunotherapy. This may make immunotherapy more convenient for you and may reduce your costs. Both forms of immunotherapy may be successful in treating the symptoms of allergic rhinitis and you should choose the method with which you are most comfortable.

CONSENT FOR ADMINISTRATION OF RUSH IMMUNOTHERAPY AUTHORIZATION FOR TREATMENT

I have read the information in this consent form and understand it. The opportunity has been provided to me to ask questions regarding the potential risk of RUSH immunotherapy and these questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I understand the increased risk of RUSH immunotherapy when compared with the risk of conventional immunotherapy, as discussed in the Consent for Administration of Conventional Immunotherapy, which I have also received, read, and understand. The information contained in the Consent for Administration of RUSH Immunotherapy is a supplement to that received in the Consent for Administration of Conventional Immunotherapy.

Printed name of immunotherapy patient

DOB

Patient signature (or legal guardian)

Date Signed

For office use only: I certify that I have counseled this patient and/or authorized legal guardian concerning the information in this consent for RUSH immunotherapy and it appears to me that the signee understands the nature, risks, and benefits of the proposed treatment plan.

Physician signature

Date signed