Seafood Allergy: Clinical Manifestation in Thai Patient Who Was Referred to Referral Allergy Center, Siriraj Hospital

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RATIONALE: Food allergy affect 1.5-2.5% of population. Cow's milk, egg, soy peanut and fish are the most common offending food. Limited studies in Thailand indicated that seafood are the most common cause of food allergy in this country. We sought to determine clinical manifestations of seafood allergy among our patients.

METHODS: Patients with suspected history of food allergy were subjected a thorough history and physical examination. They had skin prick tests for a battery suspected food and was subjected to food challenge with suspected food.

RESULTS: Twenty-nine patients (male/female=25/4) underwent 32 food challenges with suspected seafoods with 68.8% gave positive results. Mean age of onset was 58.52 month (range 18-146 month). Onset of symptoms ranged between 5 minutes to 5 hours (mean 61.55 minute). The most common symptom was urticaria 60% oral allergy syndrome 37.5%. The most common causative agent was shrimp (68.7%). Family history was positive for allergic diseases in 44.8% of cases. Other allergic diseases were found in 72.4% with asthma and allergic rhinitis being 37.9%, 65.5% respectively.

CONCLUSIONS: The most common seafood causing symptoms in our study was shrimp and urticaria was the most common presentation.

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