



Spring/Summer 2013 Newsletter

We are excited to announce the opening of our new Elgin location at 2445 Westfield Dr. Ste 501. Located just two blocks north of our previous location.

Dr. N. Askenazi, Dr. A. Kung and staff welcome Dr. Eugenia Hahn to our practice

Dr. Hahn is a board-certified allergist, trained to treat both children and adults. She has been practicing in the Chicagoland area since completing her training in Allergy and Immunology. Her special interests are in food allergy, drug allergy, eczema and immunological disorders. Her goal is to help patients understand their medical conditions and to work with them to live their lives to the fullest.

She attended medical school at the Rochester School of Medicine. Her residency was completed at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, CA. She went on then to complete her fellowship in Allergy & Immunology at Washington University in St. Louis, MO.

You can read more about Dr Hahn on our website [www. MyAllergyDr.com](http://www.MyAllergyDr.com)

Penicillin Allergies: Are they all truly allergic?

As you know many patients who list Penicillin as a drug allergy are likely to be misdiagnosed as such. Having to avoid penicillin's and cephalosporins in treating infections becomes difficult and is unnecessary. In patients with multiple drug allergies this problem is further compounded. Since a recent study reported at the February 2013 National Conference of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology found that 98% of individuals with supposed PCN allergy were not allergic, there is a big initiative to test and then orally challenge most diagnosed PCN allergic people.

We now offer this testing evaluation, followed by an oral challenge, and if we can help please call us.

Food Allergy News- It may be safe to introduce allergenic foods earlier!

Recently the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology has changed its position on the introduction of highly allergenic foods such as peanut, fish, shellfish, tree nuts, soy, milk, wheat and eggs to babies and children.

Food allergies affect an estimated 5% of children under the age of 5 in the US. The prevalence of food allergy for children under 18 has increased by 18% from 1997 to 2007. Evidence has not supported the previously held belief that withholding highly allergenic foods until children were older would reduce the prevalence of food allergy and in fact, there is increasing evidence that early introduction may reduce food allergy.

The new AAAAI recommendations include introducing highly allergenic foods after typical first foods have been eaten and tolerated, such as rice cereal, fruits and vegetables. They suggest children be fed the foods at home and in gradually increasing amounts.

There is currently an ongoing study of children who are considered at high risk of allergy. This study follows 640 children from birth to age 5 with one group consuming peanuts three times weekly and the other group eating no peanuts. Preliminary results are due next year and will further clarify this issue.

In the meantime, Dr. Robert Wood, director of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine tells parents, "you can do whatever you want because we're not sure what makes a difference."

The AAAAI recommends that an allergist be consulted in cases when an infant has eczema that is difficult to control or an existing food allergy. Children with a sibling having peanut allergy have a 7% greater risk of peanut allergy and parents are encouraged to discuss food introduction with allergist, but the risk of introducing peanut at home in infancy are low according to the recommendations.