



Research Update! May 2004

Allergy Associates recently surveyed an adult (Age >18) population of patients whom are insured by a large Wisconsin based insurer. We chose this population for two reasons. First, this payer has specifically denied coverage for our clinics treatment approach (type of testing, frequency of testing and use of sublingual antigens). Second, the population of patients was manageable in terms of its size to reasonably survey, record and analyze the data gathered (167 patients).

Response to the mailed survey was 45% (75 out of 167). Patients were asked to fill out a one page, 15-question survey (See complete survey on reverse side)

Demographic questions and cumulative responses included:

Average Age of respondents is **47.5 years (range 2 years to 80)**

Average length of time in treatment at AAOL is **6.75 years**

Average visits to the clinic annually is **1.25**

How far do they travel to the clinic, most common answer - **121-200 miles, one-way**

Have they been tested for allergies before coming to AAOL, **54% have.**

Have they been treated with immunotherapy before coming to AAOL, **16% have.**

General Health and Health care utilization questions, cumulative responses included:

	<u>Prior to AAOL treatment</u>	<u>After AAOL treatment</u>	<u>Change</u>
Rating of health (Scoring: 6=excellent 5=very good 4=good 3=fair 2=poor 1=very poor)	2.5	5.0	+2.5
Doctor Visits/year (group avg.)	5.01	1.61	-3.4
ER visits/year (group total)	57	11	-46
Hospitalizations/yr (group total) 8 members reported a hospitalization – 10.7%	11	3	- 8
Medications/mo. (group avg.) 1284 fewer annual prescriptions for the group	3.23	1.62	- 1.61

Diagnosed with chronic condition: **62.7%** (n=47) reported at least 1 chronic condition (Asthma = 23, sinusitis=32, urticaria/eczema = 8, other = 2)

Impact of care on Quality-of-Life **4.47**
(Scale 1=not at all, 2=very little, 3=some, 4= quite positively, 5= very positively)
80% reported an increase, 20% stayed the same, 0% reported a decrease

Work/School Days
Missed/month **3.29** **.89** **- 2.4**
Annualized: 1704 days for this group.

Insurance Reimbursement

\$0 reimbursement was reported by 12% for office visits, 30% for Testing, 93% for antigen drops

We are in the process of developing a full economic analysis of this impact. Initially it appears to be reduction in NET annual direct medical costs of over \$160,000 and indirect costs of \$340,000.

AAOL Patient, Insurer Member Survey

PATIENT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

- 1) Age of the patient? ____ years (If child, relationship of person completing survey)_____
- 2) How long have you been a patient? (in years) 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10+
- 3) How often do you come to the clinic? (visits per year) less than 1 - 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6+
- 4) How far do you travel the clinic? (miles one-way) 0-25 26-60 61-120 121-200 201-300 over 300
- 5) Did you have tests for allergies before coming to AAOL? __yes__no
- 6) Were you receive immunotherapy (allergy injections) before coming to AAOL? __yes __no

GENERAL HEALTH STATUS

- 1) Overall, how would you rate your health prior to beginning treatment at AAOL?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
o	o	o	o	o	o

- 2) Overall, how would you rate your health now?

Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Very Poor
o	o	o	o	o	o

- 3) Do you have a chronic condition? (Please check all that apply)

- asthma,
- sinusitis,
- eczema,
- urticaria (hives)
- other _____ please identify

- 4) How much did you utilize medical resources prior to treatment at AAOL versus now?

RESOURCE (circle)	<u>Prior to AAOL Treatment</u>	<u>Now</u>
a) Visits to Doctors (per year)	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10+	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10+
b) ER visits (per year)	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10+	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10+
c) Hospitalization (per year)	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10+	1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10+

- 5) How much medication did you take to prior to treatment at AAOL and now?

	<u>Prior to AAOL Treatment</u>	<u>Now</u>
Number of medications used monthly (circle):	1-2-3-4-5-6+	1-2-3-4-5-6+

- 7) Rate the impact AAOL treatment has had on your "Quality of Life"?

(ability to participate in all aspects of life events, tasks,...)

Not at all	Very little	Some	Quite positively	Very positively
o	o	o	o	o

- 8) How much school/work did you miss on average? (circle **number of days/month**)

<u>Prior to AAOL Treatment</u>	<u>Now</u>
1-2-3-4-5-6+	1-2-3-4-5-6+

- 9) Has your insurance company(s) reimbursed for AAOL treatment? (circle approximate percentage)

Office visits	0	25%	50%	75%	100%
Testing	0	25%	50%	75%	100%
Antigen (Drops)	0	25%	50%	75%	100%