

Xolair[®] and Allergy Shots

Xolair[®]

- Xolair[®] is an IgE inhibitor given by injection for moderate to severe allergic asthma. It is used when other medications have been tried but are unsuccessful in managing asthma symptoms. It is used for adults and children over age 12. Xolair[®] works on an antibody in the immune system.
 - » IgE is what tells the cells in your body to start an allergic reaction. So you may start coughing, wheezing, have swelling and hives or nasal congestion.
 - » Xolair[®] helps prevent the allergic reaction.
 - » Xolair[®] is given as a shot once or twice a month in a doctor's office where you can be watched for a bad reaction to the shot. Side effects may include dizziness, weak heart rate, itching, hives, or a feeling of warmth on your skin. In rare cases, side effects can be fatal.
- Be sure to talk to your doctor about the potential side effects and all the risks and benefits of your asthma medication.

Allergy Shots

- Allergy shots can be used for people with allergies when traditional treatments (antihistamines) aren't working.
- A simple skin prick test will be performed to determine what you are allergic to. The doctor will have a series of vials of allergens and will use the vial to lightly prick the skin on your back.
- After 20 minutes the staff will measure the size of welts on your back. If the welts exceed a certain size, it will show you are allergic to that specific allergen (cat, dog, grass, etc).
- Your doctor will then order a serum that contains tiny amounts of the things you are allergic to. The doctor will inject you with this serum twice a week, which should gradually desensitize your body to the most troublesome allergens. If you tolerate the injections, you can slowly decrease the frequency.
- Generally, the total treatment time for allergy shots is from 3-5 years.

