Breastfeeding, children carrying the TLR9 TT genotype had odds ratios of 3.3 and 13.2 for breastfeeding <4 months and >4 months respectively.

CONCLUSIONS. The effects of breastfeeding on FS are modified by SNPs in the IL-12 beta receptor, TLR9, and TSLP genes, both individually and jointly. These findings underscore the importance of considering individual genetic variations in assessing this relationship.

REVIEWER COMMENTS. How often have pediatricians and allergists confronted a distraught mother who feels she did everything to avoid allergic disease in her young child by adhering to breastfeeding and delaying the introduction of notoriously allergenic foods? We know now from other studies that the latter tactic is generally the wrong course, and this article might help us understand why prior studies regarding the allergy-prevention benefits of breastfeeding have yielded mixed results.

Parental Eczema Increases the Risk of Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Reactions to Milk but Not to Egg, Peanut, or Hazelnut

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY. The authors investigated whether history of parental atopic diseases are associated with a higher risk of reaction to common allergenic foods in children.

STUDY POPULATION. In this Dutch study, 396 children (251 male, 145 female) with suspected food allergy were recruited from a pediatric allergy outpatient clinic. Median age was 5.4 years (range, 6 months to 17.8 years).

METHODS. The parents and children were asked if they each had a previous diagnosis of asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, or (in the parents) food allergy. Children were identified as having food sensitivity through an elevated ImmunoCap-specific IgE (>0.35 kU/L) to cow’s milk, hen’s egg, peanut, or hazelnut. The children also underwent double-blind, placebo-controlled food challenges (DBPCFC) to the allergenic food, with a period of at least 2 weeks between food and placebo challenges. Logistic regression analysis was used to compare risk of a reaction to each food tested between children whose parents were not atopic and children with 1 or 2 parents with atopic diseases.

RESULTS. More than 90% of the children had been previously diagnosed with atopic disease, most commonly eczema. A total of 553 DBPCFCs were performed with 274 children tested for 1 food, 92 for 2 foods, 25 for 3 foods, and 5 for all 4 foods. Foods tested included cow’s milk (n = 185), egg (n = 110), peanut (n = 198), and...
Gene Polymorphisms, Breastfeeding, and Development of Food Sensitization in Early Childhood
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