

Abstract

Introduction and Background

Despite being the most commonly reported drug allergy, fewer than 5% of people with a penicillin allergy label have a true allergy. Several risks are associated with a penicillin allergy label, including greater healthcare costs and higher mortality risk. Skin testing and direct oral challenge have been utilized to test for and de-label penicillin allergies, but skin testing can be resource intensive. The PEN-FAST tool was recently developed to assess risk of positive skin test and to identify patients who can safely receive a direct oral challenge without a prior skin test.

Problem Solution

Educational material was produced in the form of a three-fold pamphlet to be distributed to patients. This material focused on explaining the risks associated with penicillin allergies and introduces patients to the PEN-FAST tool with the intention of empowering patients to take an active role in their healthcare and initiate conversations with their healthcare providers regarding their penicillin allergy.

Discussion and Conclusion

Further research to assess the value and impact of this educational material would be beneficial. Future patient education on the topic could also include the SELF-FAST score, which is meant to be completed by patients themselves. Increasing awareness of the risks of penicillin allergy could lead to the creation of a penicillin allergy management service.