

# Anaphylaxis

Anaphylaxis is a severe form of IgE-mediated hypersensitivity reaction that is rapid in onset and may involve two or more organ systems<sup>1,2</sup>

Anaphylaxis is likely if any of 1 of the following three criteria are fulfilled<sup>7</sup>:

Symptoms include<sup>3, 4, 5, 6</sup>

**Lung**  
shortness of breath,  
cough, wheeze

**Skin**  
itching, hives,  
redness, swelling

**Stomach**  
vomiting, diarrhea,  
cramps

**Throat**  
itching, tightness/  
closure, hoarseness

**Heart**  
weak pulse, dizziness,  
syncope, tachycardia

**Other**  
feeling of impending  
doom, headache,  
itchy/red/watery eyes

1

Acute onset of illness (within minutes or hours) with the involvement of skin and/or mucosal tissue (flushing, pruritus, generalized hives, swollen lips/tongue/uvula)

AND at least 1 of the following:

- Respiratory compromise (dyspnea, hypoxemia, stridor, wheeze-bronchospasm)
- Reduced BP or symptoms of end-organ dysfunction (syncope, incontinence, hypotonia)

2

Two or more, if they occur acutely after exposure to likely allergen:

- Mucocutaneous involvement (flushing, pruritus, generalized hives, swollen lips/tongue/uvula)
- Respiratory compromise (dyspnea, hypoxemia, stridor, wheeze-bronchospasm)
- Reduced BP or symptoms of end-organ dysfunction (syncope, incontinence, hypotonia)
- Gastrointestinal involvement (Cramp-like abdominal pain, vomiting)

3

Reduced BP occurring acutely after exposure to known allergen:

- Infants and children: low systolic BP or greater than 30% decrease in systolic BP
- Adults: Systolic BP of less than 90 mmHg or greater than 30% decrease in systolic BP

## List of references:

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