Correlating food allergic reactions with the consumed food (AAGE201 study)

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5-8% of the population suffers from a food allergy that can potentially lead to a severe reaction. Various factors of severity have been studied, but the relationship between the amount of allergen consumed and the severity of the reaction has never been investigated. Therefore, there is uncertainty regarding the consumption of very small amounts of allergen (declared as “traces”).

The aim of our study is to analyze qualitatively and quantitatively the allergen content in foods that have provoked a food allergy reaction in 2021 and to make an inventory of food allergies in the canton of Geneva during this year. Here we will present the primary outcome.

A. There is no statistically significant difference in quantity of allergen in the low severity vs high severity groups.
B. There is an overlap of quantity of allergen in « Trace » and « Ingredient » declaration.

• There is no relationship between the severity of the reaction and the quantity of allergen.
  - Highly allergic patients may react strongly to very small amounts.
  - Low allergic patients may react weakly to large amounts.

• « Trace » declaration on foodstuffs does not reflect the quantitative aspect of the food and does not provide the necessary information for allergic patients.
  - There is a clear need for a better declaration of allergens.

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