

Verifying Your Penicillin Allergy

Be Antibiotics Aware.

Mislabeling a penicillin allergy can sometimes lead to:

- Using stronger antibiotics than needed (broad-spectrum antibiotics)
- Higher medical costs
- More side effects
- Growing antibiotic resistance

Ask your pharmacist to help you take a closer look at your allergy history. They can:

- Review your past medications and prescriptions
- Ask you questions about what happened when you reacted
- Recommend talking to your doctor or an allergist for allergy testing

Questions to Think About

- What antibiotic were you taking when you had a reaction?
- What happened - rash, swelling, trouble breathing, etc.?
- How long ago did it happen?
- Did you get treatment, and did it work?
- Have you taken penicillin or related drugs since then?

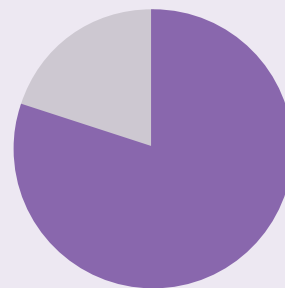
What Are Broad-Spectrum Antibiotics?

These are antibiotics that can treat a wide range of bacterial infections. They are often used when doctors can't prescribe penicillin. But they can:

- Cost more
- Be less effective
- Increase the risk of antibiotic resistance

DID YOU KNOW?

10% of Americans report a Penicillin allergy, but less than 1% of the population is truly allergic.



Most people outgrow true penicillin allergies. **About 80% of people** with a past allergy lose it after 10 years.

Sources:

1. CDC – Is It Really a Penicillin Allergy?
2. JAMA, 2019 – Shenoy et al.
3. NEJM, 2019 – Castells et al.

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Ask your pharmacist today about verifying your penicillin allergy.
It could lead to better care and better antibiotics for you.