

CLINICAL SPECIFICATIONS

MINT

Antigen Made From:

Organic Mint leaves and stems mixed

Associated With:

Mint immune reactivity

Known Cross-Reactions: Anti-*B. burgdorferi* antibodies,¹ Islet Cell²

Clinical Significance:

One hundred grams of mint contain 3.29% of protein.³ Studies on food immune reactivities predominantly use raw food antigens. However, some researchers have noted that heating or combining food proteins can change their antigenicity.⁴⁻⁶ This array tests for IgG and IgA food immune reactivity.^{7,8} Equivocal or out-of-range results indicate antibody reactivity to the tested food antigen. We tested 288 blood donor sera against mint antigens at optimal dilution, 17.7% of these donors were IgG and IgA reactive.

Due to cross-reactivity, possible connections between food antigens and human autoimmunity has been previously suggested because proteins in nature can have a similarity in sequence and structure to certain human tissues.⁹⁻¹²

Data suggests that eliminating foods identified using IgG antibody food testing can play a role in improvement of symptoms.¹³ Because certain food components can lead to gut flora changes and gut permeability, eliminating specified food antigens should result in the reduction of antigenic stimuli and the improvement of symptoms.^{13,14}

The results of this food array may be used to develop and implement an immune targeted dietary plan, which includes the avoidance of triggering and known cross-reactive foods. Furthermore, when followed over time, avoidance/prevention treatment plans tailored and supervised by the ordering healthcare professional, may help: (a) repair the gut barrier; and (b) re-establish oral tolerance to the offending food.^{13,14}

References:

1. Vojdani. Reaction of monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies made against infectious agents with various food antigens. *J Clin Cell Immunol*, 2015; 6:359.
2. Kharrazian, et al. Detection of islet cell immune reactivity with low glycemic index foods: is this a concern for type 1 diabetes? *J Diabetes Res*, 2017; 2017:4124967.
3. U.S. Department of Agriculture: <http://ndb.nal.usda.gov/ndb/foods>
4. Sanchez and Fremont. Consequences of heat treatment and processing of food on the structure and allergenicity of component proteins. *Rev Fr Allergol Immunol Clin*, 2003; 43:13-20.
5. Sathe et al. Effects of food processing on the stability of food allergens. *Biotechnol Adv*, 2005; 23:423-429.
6. Vojdani. Detection of IgE, IgG, IgA and IgM antibodies against raw and processed food antigens. *Nutr Metab (Lond)*, 2009; 6: 22. DOI: 10.1186/1743-7075-6-22.
7. Barnes. IgG and IgA antibodies to dietary antigens in food allergy and intolerance. *Clin Exp Allergy*, 1995; 25(Suppl 1):7-9.
8. Mullin et al. Testing for food reactions: the good, the bad, and the ugly. *Nutr Clin Pract*, 2010; 25(2):192-198.
9. Vaishnav et al. Aquaporin 4 molecular mimicry and implications for neuromyelitis optica. *J Neuroimmunol*, 2013; 260: 92-98.
10. Agris et al. Plant DNA topoisomerase 1 is recognized and inhibited by human SCI-70 sera autoantibodies. *Exp Cell Res*, 1990;189:276-279.
11. Lunardi et al. Glycine-rich cell wall proteins act as specific antigen targets in autoimmune and food allergic disorders. *Int Immunol*, 2000; 12(5):647-657.
12. Bullard-Dillard et al. Anti-Sm autoantibodies of systemic lupus erythematosus cross react with dietary plant proteins. *Immunol Invest*, 1992; 21(3):193-202.
13. Cordain et al. Modulation of immune function by dietary lectins in rheumatoid arthritis. *Br J Nutr*, 2000; 83:207-217.
14. Atkinson et al. Food elimination based on IgG antibodies in irritable bowel syndrome: a randomised controlled trial. *Gut*, 2004; 53(10):1459-1464.