

CLINICAL SPECIFICATIONS

PUMPKIN + SQUASH, COOKED

Antigen Made From:

Pumpkin, Butternut Squash, Yellow Squash, and Zucchini Squash baked for 30 minutes

Associated With:

Pumpkin immune reactivity
Squash immune reactivity

Known Cross-Reactions: Pumpkin with Pumpkin Seed, Muskmelon, Watermelon, Cucumber and Zucchini¹

Clinical Significance:

One hundred grams of cooked pumpkin, squash and zucchini contain 0.89% protein.² 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.³⁻⁵

This array tests for IgG and IgA food immune reactivity.^{6,7} Equivocal or out-of-range results indicate antibody reactivity to the tested food antigen. We tested 288 blood donor sera against cooked pumpkin, squash and zucchini antigens at optimal dilution, 7.3% 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.⁸⁻¹¹

Data suggests that eliminating foods identified using IgG antibody food testing can play a role in improvement of symptoms.¹² 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.^{12,13}

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.^{12,13}

References:

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