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## MEDLINE Abstract

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### Physician attitudes, opinions, and referral patterns: comparisons of those who have and have not taken an allergy/immunology rotation.

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**BACKGROUND:** Interest in the field of allergy/immunology (A/I) is increasing, yet resident training programs are under pressure to shorten elective rotations such as A/I. It is unclear if there are differences between those who have and have not taken an A/I rotation. **OBJECTIVE:** To evaluate differences in the attitudes, opinions, and referral patterns between physicians who have and have not taken an A/I rotation. **METHODS:** An anonymous questionnaire was sent to 375 primary care physicians at one academic medical center. Subjects were separated into 5 cohorts based on specialty and level of training (internal medicine faculty, internal medicine resident, pediatric faculty, pediatric resident, and internal medicine-pediatric resident). **RESULTS:** Of the participants, 227 (61.0%) completed the survey. Compared with those who had not taken an A/I rotation, those who had taken an A/I rotation were more likely to feel they knew the types of cases seen by an allergist (75.9% vs 33.3%), to feel they knew an adequate amount about A/I (59.3% vs 19.5%), to feel they were exposed to an adequate amount of A/I during residency (64.8% vs 9.8%), to view immunotherapy as effective (70.0% vs 52.3%), and to have referred a patient to an allergist (77.8% vs 46.0%). **CONCLUSIONS:** There are significant differences in the attitudes, opinions, and referral patterns between physicians who have and have not taken an A/I rotation. Allergic diseases are increasing, yet residency training programs are under pressure to shorten rotations such as A/I to accommodate federally mandated work hour restrictions. The potential for inadequate care of allergic diseases may be an important issue if these trends continue.

Major Subject Heading(s)	Minor Subject Heading(s)
Attitude of Health Personnel	Adult
Curriculum	Allergy and Immunology [education]
Internship and Residency	Asthma [psychology] [therapy]