



Noah Walton

Allergy Answers

Skin testing for allergies is more effective than ever, and can be especially important for pediatric care.

Tracy Walton's 13-year-old son Noah had a serious infection in his left ear.

"His nose was running a lot and his eyes were itchy sometimes," says Tracy. "He also had a bit of a cough and a feeling like a lot of pressure in there."

"I just thought it was a sinus infection, possibly with an ear infection," she recalls. "I took him to our primary care doctor."

Unfortunately, the problem didn't clear up quickly.

"When they cleaned out Noah's ear, it was still bothering him. I wanted to see what else was going on because he said he couldn't hear out of that ear," explains Tracy, whose family physician subsequently referred her and her son to Atlantic Ear, Nose & Throat.

It turned out that the ear infection was not Noah's only problem.

"He has a lot of allergies," says Tracy. "Testing showed that he was allergic to pet dander, dust mites, and a lot of the trees and grasses out there."

Allergy skin testing

When it comes to allergy testing and treatment, at Atlantic Ear, Nose & Throat the focus is always on quality patient education and experience, assures Daniel Rothbaum, MD, a board-certified otolaryngologist at the practice.

"We work very hard in developing and educating our staff, and putting systems in place that will make the testing experience both as safe and as pleasant as possible for the patient," he explains.

"It does take a little bit of time to do the test, so you really get an opportunity to ask a lot of questions of our allergy staff. We consider it as much an educational experience as a testing experience."

Dr. Rothbaum notes that allergy skin testing is generally more accurate than allergy blood testing.

"Though we use blood testing in some cases, particularly for very young children," he says, "overall we have found that allergy skin testing gives us more reliable information."

He emphasizes that pediatric care is

an important part of the practice, and that the staff are highly experienced dealing with children of all ages.



DANIEL ROTHBAUM, MD
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"Many of the patients in our practice are children, so pediatric care is a very large part of what we do," says the doctor. "We try to create an environment that's comfortable for children so that they feel safe."

He adds that there are many options for allergy treatment.

"Many people would prefer not to be on medicines for a long period of time, either for themselves or their children. We understand that. One of the main reasons we offer allergy testing and treatment is because we want to offer patients and their parents effective alternatives," reflects Dr. Rothbaum.

"A friendly environment"

Tracy says the treatment Noah received for his ear infection was easy to administer.

"I had to put drops in his ear for about two weeks," she explains. "Once that was done, we went back for a checkup and it was cleared up, so we focused on the allergies after that."

She reports that today Noah is doing well.

Noah is able to enjoy the great outdoors again with his family, thanks to Atlantic Ear, Nose & Throat.

"His ear infection cleared up at the end of the two weeks, and he's just taking Zyrtec once a day to keep his allergies down," she says.

Tracy thanks the staff of Atlantic Ear, Nose & Throat, adding that she was pleased with how welcome the office made her and Noah feel.

"It's a friendly environment, where they greet you right away when you open up the door," she adds. "It's good to know what kind of allergy your child has because it helps you control it, especially at certain times of the year."

PHOTO—Michael J. Sabino

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The skilled physicians at Atlantic Ear, Nose & Throat welcome your call. They are located in Lake Mary, DeLand, and Orange City. Call (407) 444-5225 or (386) 774-9880 for an initial consultation at any location.



Daniel Rothbaum, MD, is board certified in otolaryngology. After receiving his undergraduate degree from Harvard University and his medical degree from the Yale School of Medicine, he completed his general surgical internship and residency at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, where he focused primarily on facial plastic surgery and reconstruction. Dr. Rothbaum is a member of the American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery and the American Medical Association.



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