



Skin Prick Testing - *no longer available at Pathlab Taupo*

Skin prick testing is a specialised test to detect specific IgE antibodies to a range of allergens.

The accuracy of the skin prick test is highly dependent on the expertise and experience of the individual performing it. There are a number of variables that can influence the result given it is an in-vivo test, unlike highly controlled in-vitro testing, and significant inter-operator variability has been documented.¹

To ensure operator competency, and by extension, accuracy of the test, each operator must regularly perform skin prick testing. Pathlab recently reviewed skin prick test numbers processed at our Taupo site, and a minimum target of tests per operator per week was advised by our immunopathologist.

Due to the very low volume of skin prick tests processed at Pathlab Taupo, and in commitment to service quality, we have found it necessary to discontinue skin prick testing at this site. Patients will instead be booked for the same testing at a different site, the closest being Rotorua – OPD Department – Rotorua Hospital.

References:

1) Malling et al. Proficiency testing of skin prick testers as part of a quality assurance system. Clin Transl Allergy. 2016 6:36

Pathlab skin prick test online request form and patient information sheet are available here: <https://www.pathlab.co.nz/providers#forms>

Our 2022 clinical update contains advice on appropriate use of this test: <https://www.pathlab.co.nz/news/2022-10-20-skin-prick-testing-changes/>

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