

Asking patients these 18 questions during pre-op interviews will help determine whether they fit in the higher risk categories for reactions to latex.

Occupational risk

1. Are you a health care worker or do you regularly wear latex gloves at work?
2. Do your fellow workers regularly wear latex gloves?

Proceed with questions 3- 7 if patients respond affirmatively. If not, skip to question 8.

Contact dermatitis risk

3. Do you have a history of eczema or other rashes involving your hands?
4. When you wear latex gloves, do you have itching, cracking, or chapping on your hands?
 - a. If so, have these symptoms worsened or changed recently?
5. Do you have these same or similar symptoms after you stop glove use or when you wear non-latex gloves?

Contact urticaria risk

6. When you wear or are around others wearing latex gloves, do you get hives or red, swollen, and itchy hands within 30 minutes?
7. Do you get “water blisters” on your hands within 24 hours?

Aerosol reaction risk

8. When you wear or are around others wearing latex gloves, have you experienced any of the following:
 - a. Itchy red eyes, fits of sneezing, runny or stuffy nose, or itching of the nose and palate?
 - b. Shortness of breath, wheezing, chest tightness or difficulty breathing?
 - c. Any other acute reaction, such as severe swelling or shock?

Medical history risks

9. Did you undergo frequent surgeries or invasive medical procedures during infancy?
10. Have you ever experienced anaphylaxis or shock during surgery?
11. Have you experienced minor or severe itching, swelling, or other symptoms following dental, rectal, or pelvic exams?
12. Do you have a history of hay fever or other common allergies?
13. Have you been diagnosed as atopic?

Food allergies

14. Do any of these foods cause hives, itching of your lips or throat or severe allergic reactions [Indicate each]? Apples, apricots, avocado (guacamole), bananas, carrots, celery, cherries, chestnuts, figs, hazelnuts, kiwis, mangos, melon, papayas, passion fruit, peaches, pears, potatoes (eating or peeling), pineapples, raw tomatoes.

Miscellaneous potential latex reactions

15. Have you experienced swelling after blowing up a balloon?
16. Have you had shortness of breath or other difficulties breathing after blowing up a balloon?
17. Have you had skin reactions to plastic adhesive bandages?
18. Have you experienced itching or swelling caused by condoms, diaphragms or latex sexual aids?