Epidemiology of allergic conjunctivitis : Current Opinion in Allergy and Clinical Immunology

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Epidemiology of allergic conjunctivitis

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Abstract

Purpose of review

To describe currently available epidemiological data on the prevalence of allergic conjunctivitis. Allergic conjunctivitis is often underdiagnosed and consequently undertreated except when it is severe and the chief complaint of a consultation in a specialty clinic. Use of healthcare resources and reduced quality of life of affected individuals justify studies on the prevalence of allergic conjunctivitis.

Recent findings

The association of allergic nasal and ocular symptoms (rhinoconjunctivitis) is common. Most children with allergic conjunctivitis have allergic rhinitis. Older population studies estimate a prevalence of 15–20% of allergic conjunctivitis, but more recent studies implicate rates as high as 40%. Ocular symptoms are common and contribute to the burden of allergic rhinitis and lower quality of life. Ocular allergies rank a very close second and at times may overcome the primary complaints of nasal congestion in rhinoconjunctivitis patients.

Summary

Little focus has been set on the impact of allergic conjunctivitis as comorbidity to asthma and rhinitis in atopic patients. Conjunctivitis symptoms are at least as severe as rhinitis symptoms in patients with ‘hay fever’ and some have even generated the term of conjunctivorhinitis stressing the ocular symptoms. Prevalence studies should be specifically addressed to ocular allergy symptoms.

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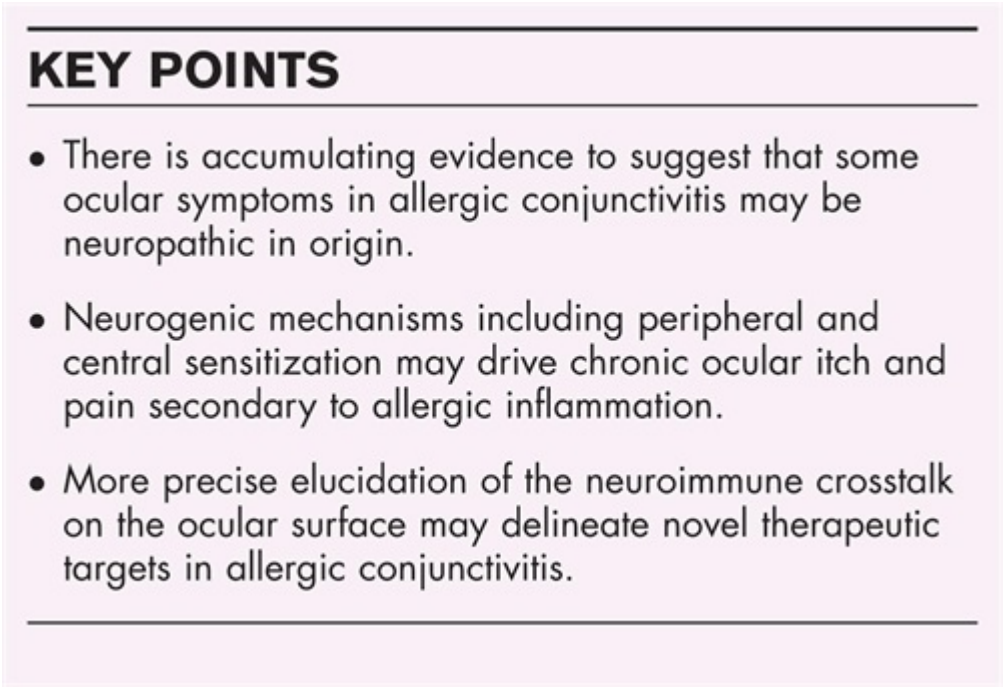

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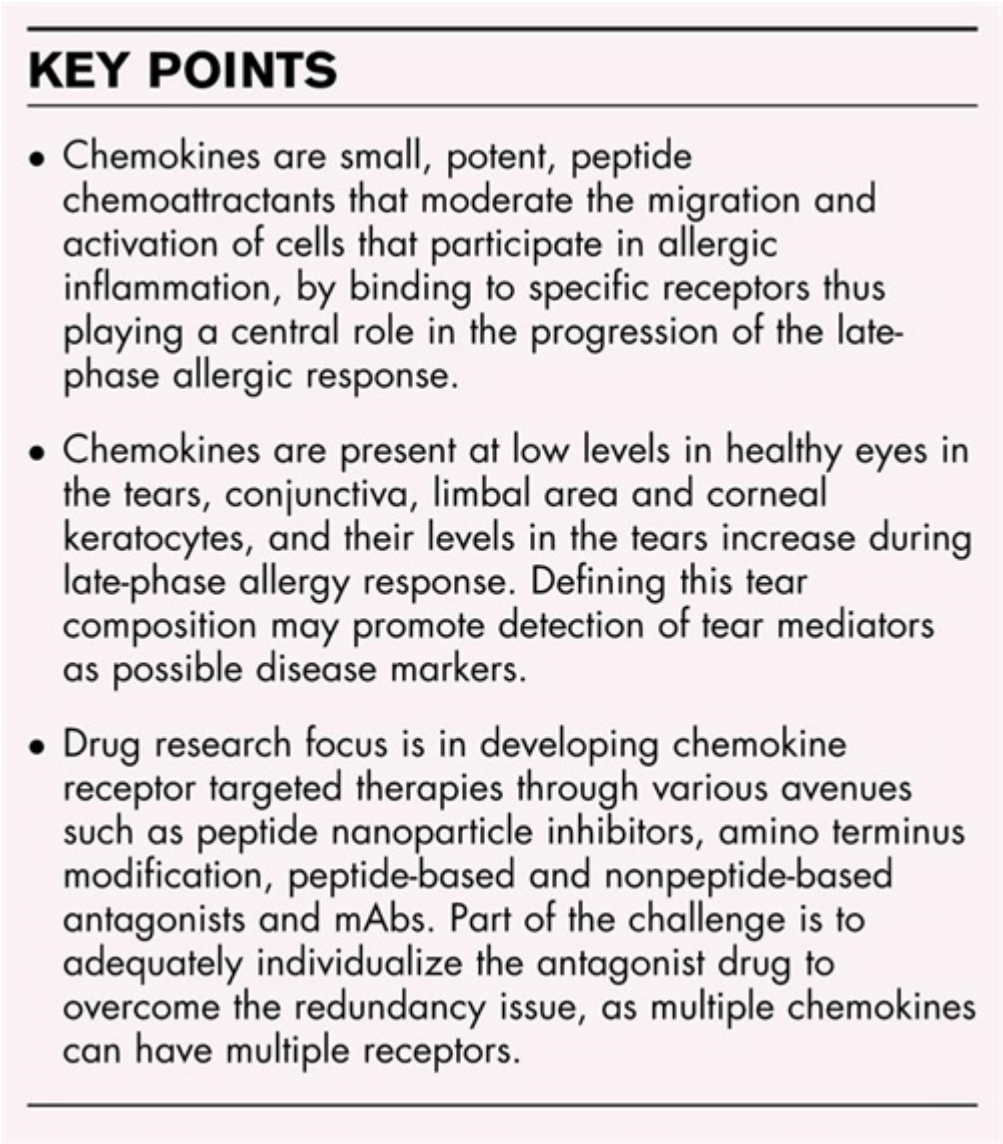

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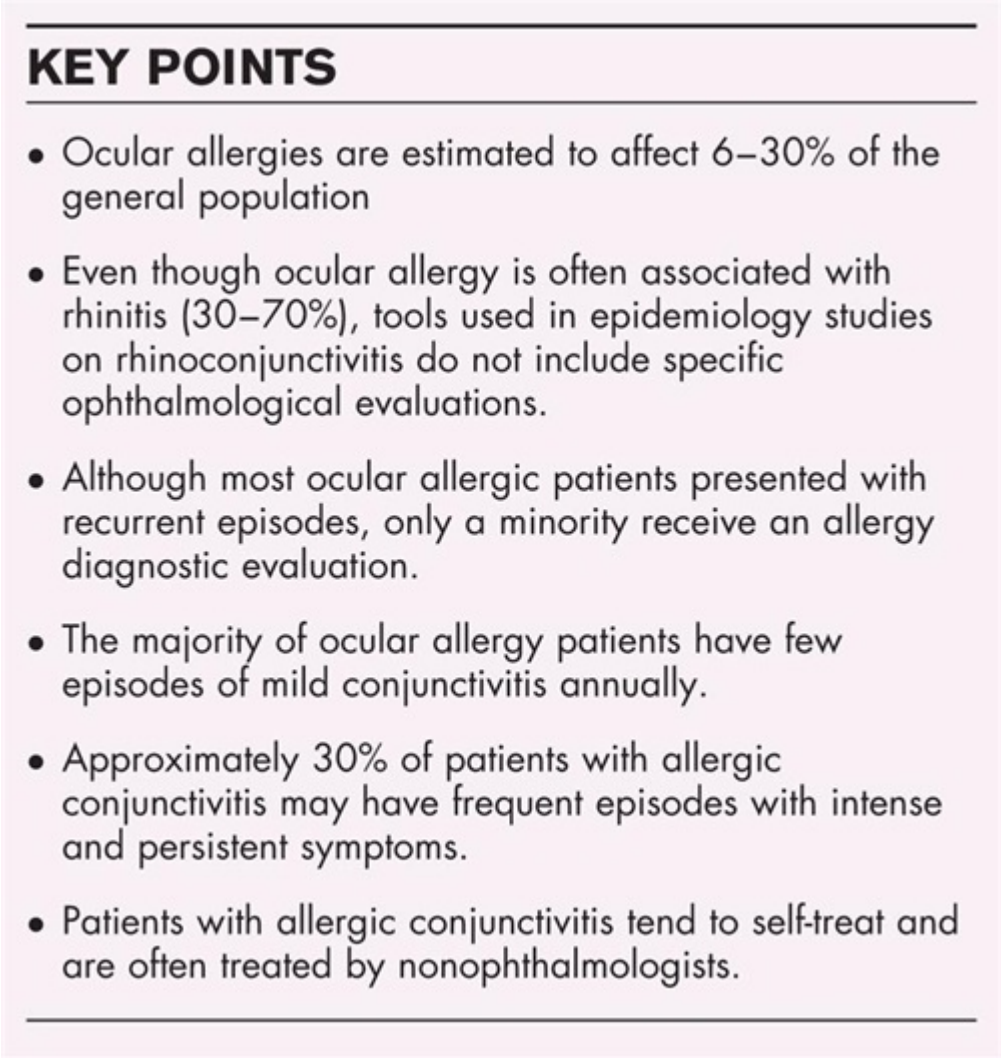

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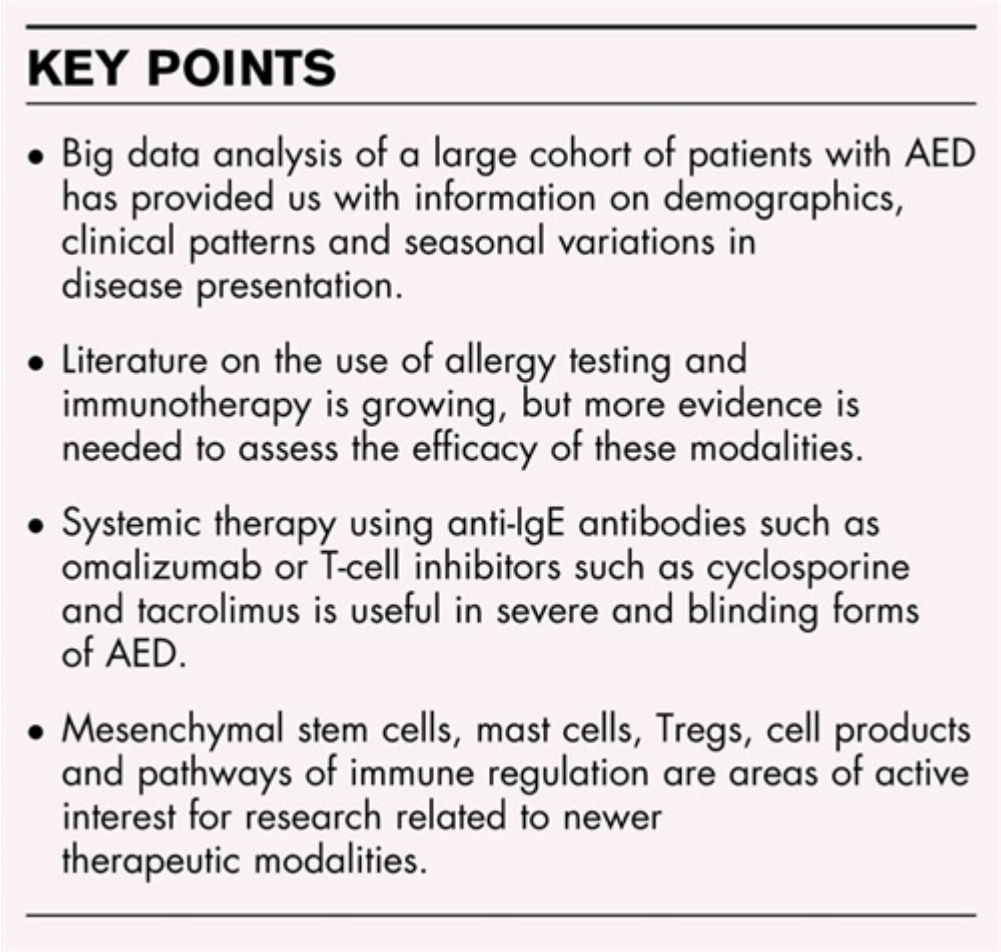

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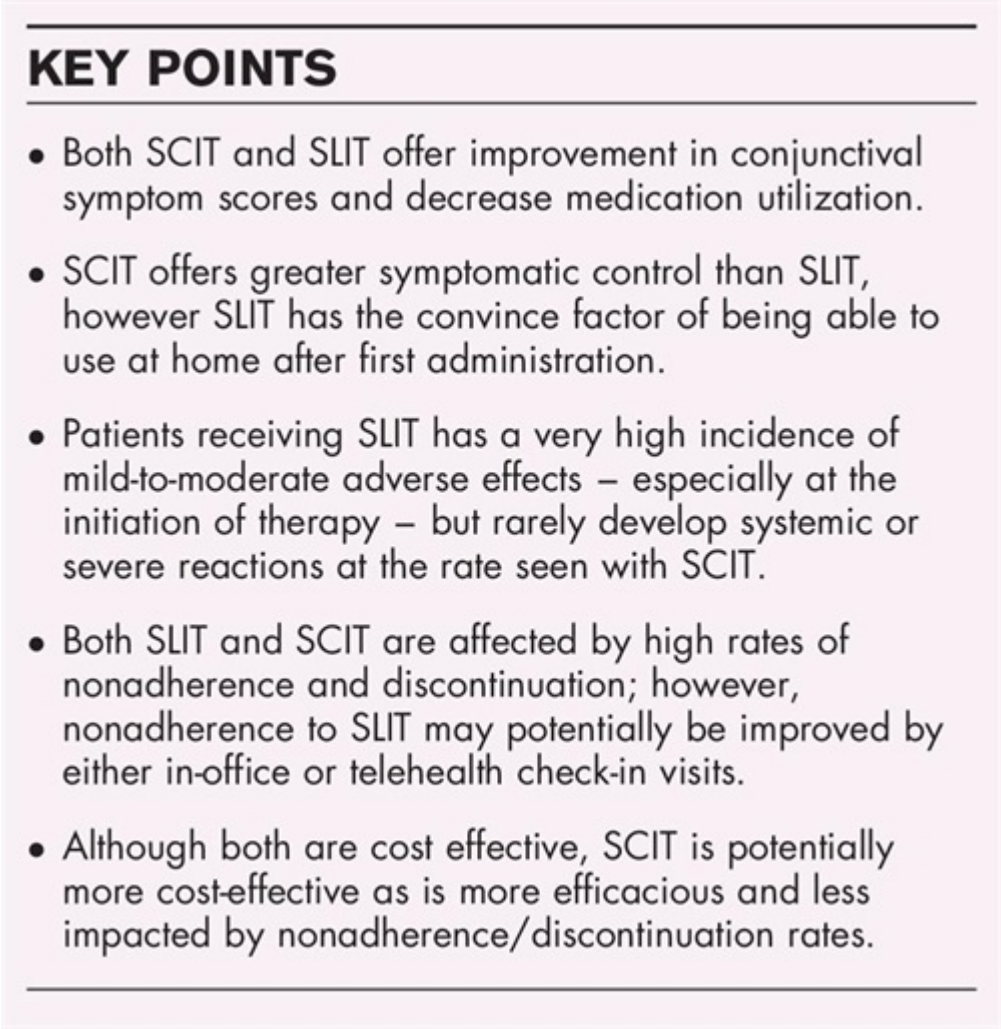

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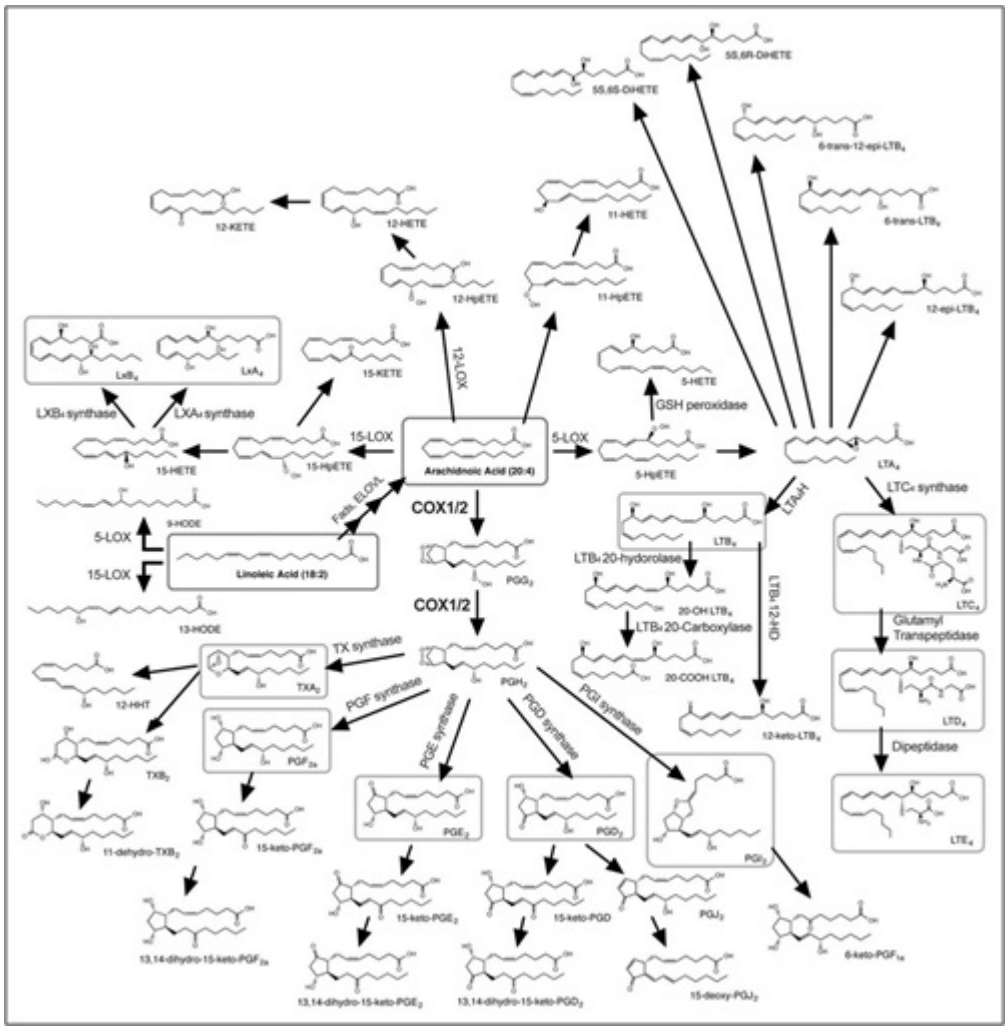

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