

Online supplement

Food and aeroallergen sensitisation

At 6 mths, 18.1% of the cohort was sensitised to food and 8.5% to aeroallergens. However with increasing age, these ratios changed. At 2 years 20.6% were sensitised to food and 35.7% to aeroallergens and at 5 years, 7.5% to food and 34.7% to aeroallergens. At 10 years, the outcome age of this paper, of the 44.2% who were sensitised, only 0.5% were sensitised to food allergens and these children were also aeroallergen sensitised.

Cohort size and followup numbers

Although the original cohort enrolled was 263 children, for this 10 year followup study, we only invited those children who had completed the 5 year followup so that we would have available, as comprehensive a set of data as possible. The majority (38.5%) of the 65 children who withdrew between enrolment (263) and the 5 year followup (198), withdrew before completing even 12 months of the study. 45% of the remainder of the children who had withdrawn after the age of 1yr and who did not participate in the 5 yr followup had informed us that they were moving permanently interstate or overseas and thus not available for followup.

We therefore only contacted the 198 children who had completed the 5- year followup and invited them to attend the 10-year followup and reported on this response rate.