

Skin prick test

Dr M Mushtaq

A skin prick test is usually the first test to be done when looking for an allergen. It's quick, painless and safe, and you get the results within about 20 minutes. This test is routinely done.

It is conducted by a trained scientist. The skin prick test involves:

- Placing a small amount of substances that may be causing your symptoms on the skin, most often on the forearm, upper arm, or back.
- Then, the skin is pricked so the allergen goes under the skin's surface.
- The health care provider closely watches the skin for swelling and redness or other signs of a reaction. Results are usually seen within 15-20 minutes.
- Several allergens can be tested at the same time.