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Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology (JSPACI)

The Japan Environment Children's Study (JECS) International Symposium
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Environmental Factors related to the onset of
allergic diseases examined in JECS

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Japanese Society of Pediatric Allergy and Clinical Immunology
COI Disclosure
Presenter: Yukihiro Ohya

The author has no conflict of
interest to disclose with
respect to this presentation.

Background of The Japan Environment Children's Study (JECS)

Post industrial revolution epidemic of non communicable diseases represented by allergic diseases and developmental disorders.

Global health concern about the environmental risk to children.

Danish National Birth Cohort, 1996–

Miami Declaration (1997) by G8 Environmental Minister

Norwegian Mother and Child Cohort Study, 1999–

G8 Environmental Ministers Meeting (Banff, 2002)

US National Children's Study, Vanguard, 2005– (cancelled)

JECS planning started, 2006

G8 Environmental Ministers Meeting (Syracusa, 2009)

highlighted research on children's environmental health

JECS pilot, 2009–

JECS, 2010–

UK Life Study, 2015– (cancelled)

Korean birth cohort study (Ko-CHENS), 2015–

G7 Environmental Ministers Meeting (Toyama, 2016)

Overview of the Japan Environment & Children's Study (JECS)

🕒 **Core Hypothesis:** Exposure to ambient chemicals during the fetal stage and the early childhood adversely affects children's health

🕒 **Method:** Birth cohort study

🕒 **Sample Size:** Main Study: 100,000 pairs of mothers and children

Sub-Cohort Study: 5,000 pairs of mothers and children

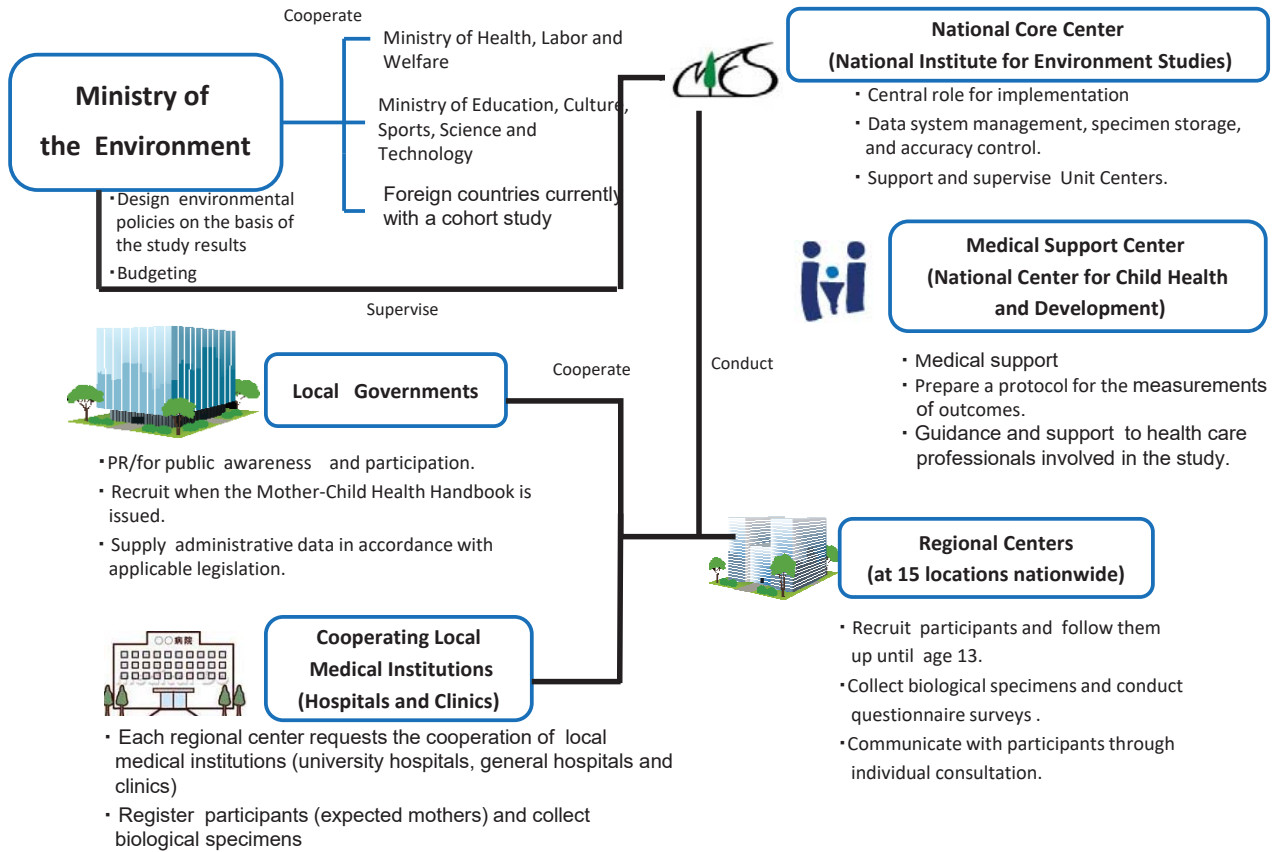
🕒 **Study Duration:** 13 years (2011-2028) since recruitment (2011-2014)

🕒 **Expected outcomes:**

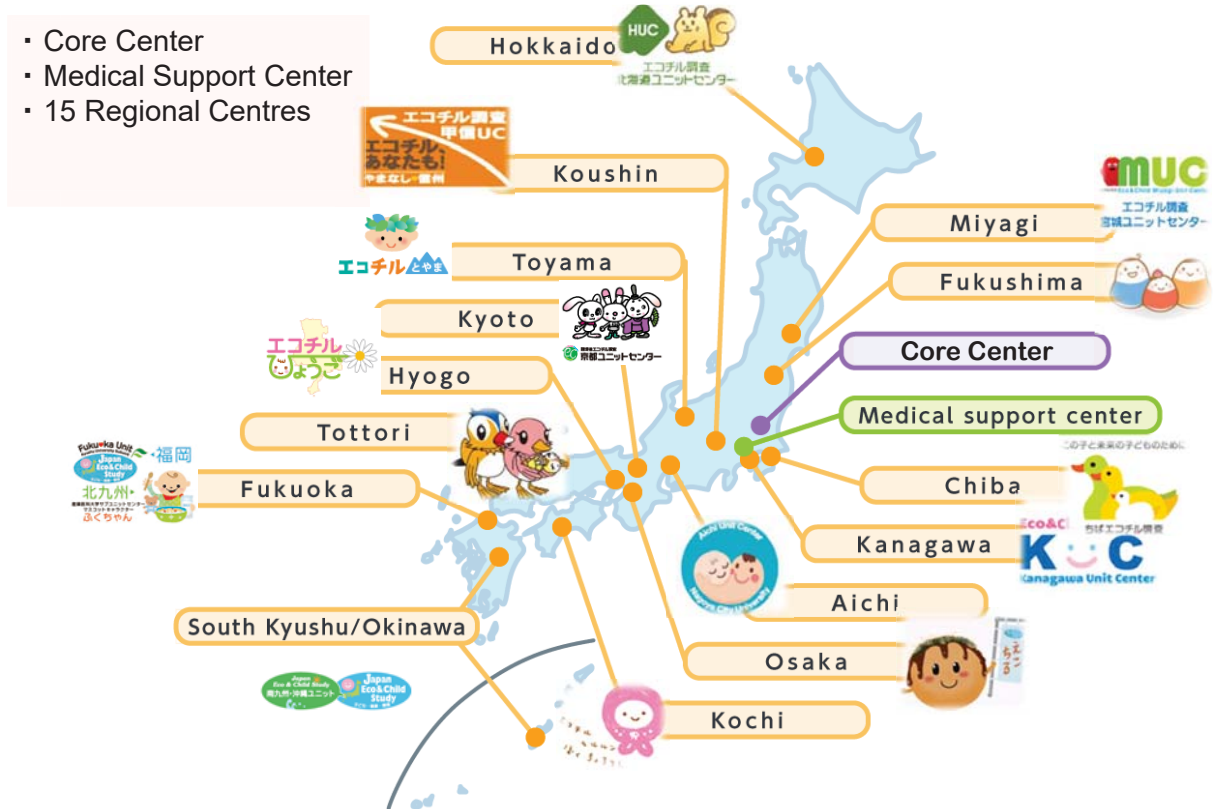
- (1) Identification of environmental factors with impacts on children's health
- (2) Creation of sound environment for future generations
- (3) Establishment of a framework for children's study



Research organization

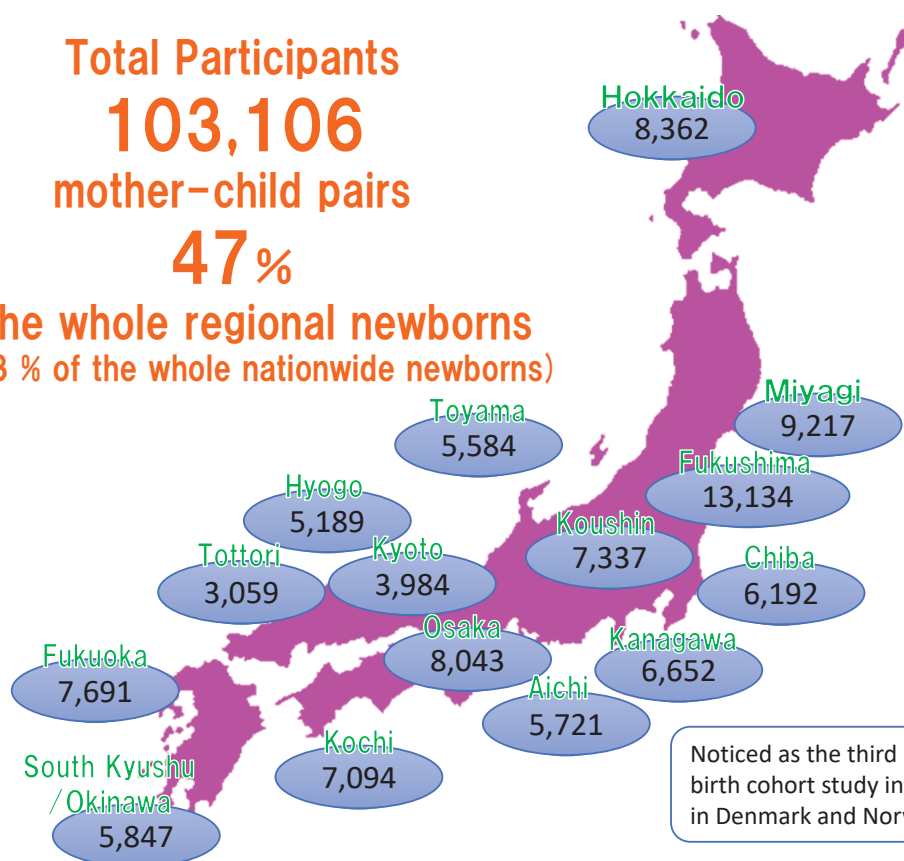


Location of regional centers



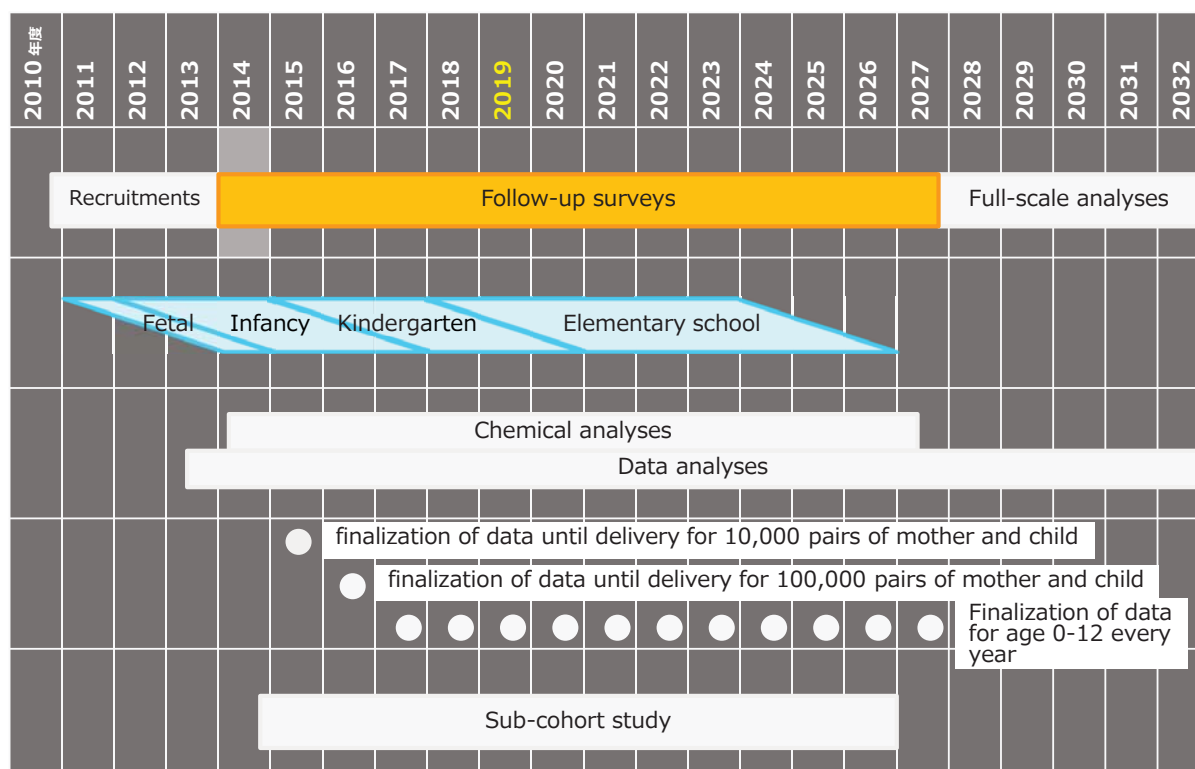
Recruited participants in each regional center

Total Participants
103,106
mother-child pairs
47%
of the whole regional newborns
(ca. 3 % of the whole nationwide newborns)

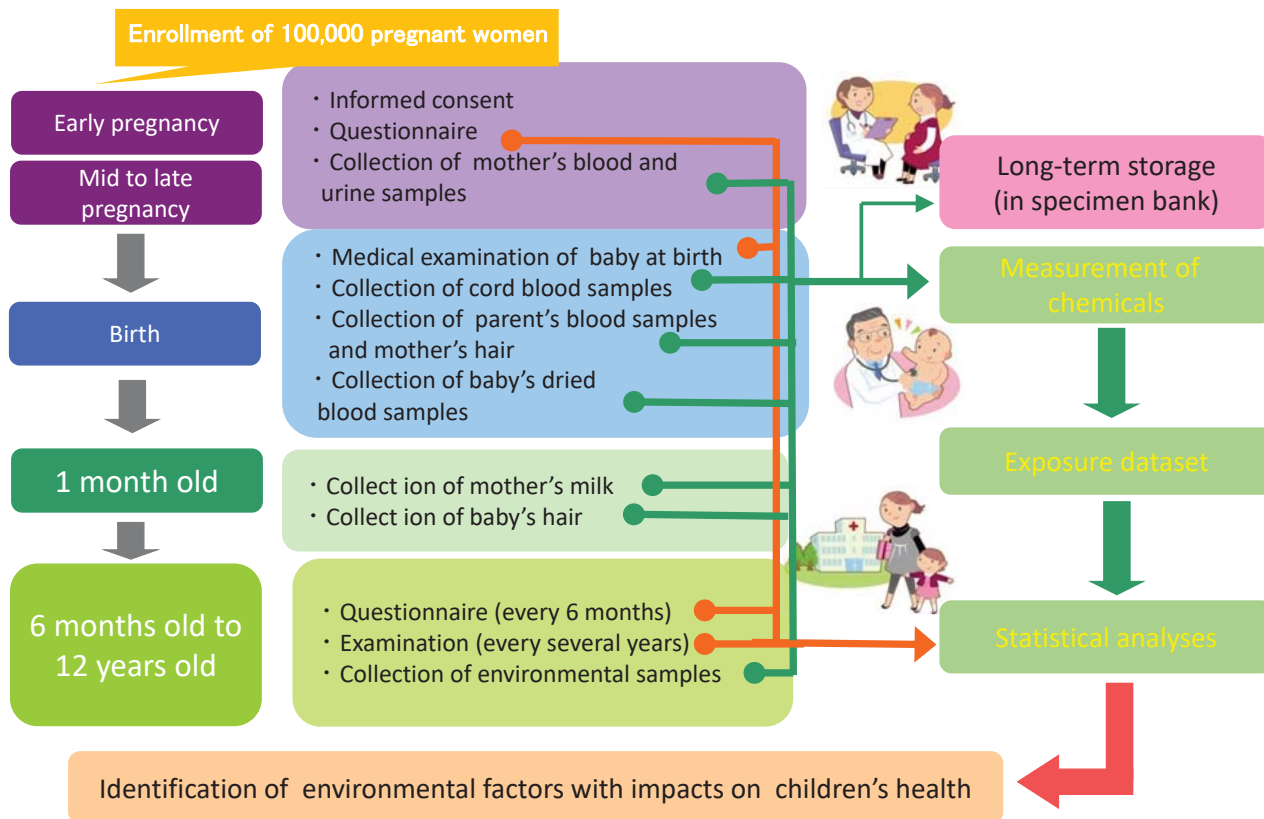


Noticed as the third largest 100,000-scale birth cohort study in the world, besides those in Denmark and Norway!

Road map for JECS



Sample collection



9

Exposures of interest

Chemicals from environment/occupation	Metals, POPs, pesticide, organofluorine compounds, aroma compounds, phthalate metabolites, phenols, others
Physical environment	Noise, heat, ionising radiation, housing condition, neighbourhood
Lifestyle	Stress, nutrition, daily rhythm, smoking and alcohol, infections, medications
Socio-economic status	Education, house-hold income, social bonding, community support
Genetics/-omics	Genomics, epigenetics, metabolomics,

Target compounds to be analyzed in bio-specimens

Group	Target compounds
Metals	Lead, cadmium, total mercury, methyl mercury, arsenics and its compounds including, arsenobetaine, methylarsonic acid, dimethylarsinic acid, trimethylarsine oxide, etc.
Inorganic substances	Iodine, perchlorate, nitrate nitrogen, etc
Chlorinated POPs (Persistent organic pollutants)	Polychlorinated biphenyl (PCBs), hydroxylated polychlorinated biphenyl (OH-PCB), dioxins (PCDDs, PCDFs, Co-PCBs), pexachlorobenzene (HCB), pentachlorobennzene (PeCB), etc.
Pesticides (including pesticide-POPs)	Chlordanes, DDT and its metabolites (DDE, etc.), drin compounds for agriculture (dieldrin, etc.), heptachlor, hexachlorocyclohexane (HCH), mirex, chlordecone, toxaphene, organophophorus pesticide metabolites (DMP, DEP, DMTP, DETP, etc.), fenitrothion metabolite (methylnitrophenol), acephate metabolite (methamidophos), pyrethroid metabolites (PBA, DCCA, etc.), dithiocarbamate fungicide metabolites (ethylene thiourea, etc.), neonicotinoid metabolites, pentachlorophenol (PCP), atrazine, dymron, glyphosate, flutolanil, iprodione, flusulfamide, etc.
Brominated POPs	Polybromodiphenylethers (PBDEs), polybromobiphenyls (PBBs), hexabromocyclododecan (HBCD), etc.
Organofluorine compounds	Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), etc.
Aroma compounds	Nitromusks, cyclic musks, etc.
Phthalate metabolites	Mono (2-ethylhexyl) phthalates, etc.
Phenols	Bisphenol A, Nonyphenols, Parabens, etc.
Others	Triclosan, benzophenone, N, N-diethyl-meta-toluamide (DEET), polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and their metabolites (1-hydroxypyrene, 3-hydroxyphenanthrene, etc.), cotinine, thiocyanate, dichlorobenzene, phytoestrogen, caffeine, pyridine, acrylamide, tributyl phosphate, tributoxyethyl phosphate, 8-hydroxydeoxyguanosine (8-OHdG), etc.

Kawamoto T et.al. BMC Public Health 2014: 14:25

Cohorts consisting of JECS study

Main Study = 100,000

- Biological sample collection from mothers, children and fathers
- Questionnaire administration during pregnancy, at birth, 1 month, 6 month, and every 6 month after that until children reach 13 years of age
- Medical record, resident registry and school record transcription

Sub-Cohort Study = 5,000

- Home visit—Indoor and outdoor air quality, particulate matter, house dust, noise, dwelling inspection... at 1.5 and 3 years
- Psychological development test, physical examination, blood and urine collection at 2 years of age and every 2 years thereafter.

Adjunct Studies = participants recruited by each regional center conducted by regional centers with extramural funding

Pilot Study = 400

to evaluate the feasibility, acceptability and cost of the proposed procedures and processes to be used in the Main Study

Outcome variables of allergy

Main Study = 100,000

- Doctor diagnosed patient reported allergic history collected from questionnaire during pregnancy.
- Blood serum total IgE and allergen specific IgE (Immuno CAP) in pregnant mother and her partner (father)
- ISAAC questionnaire,

Sub-Cohort Study = 5,000

- In addition to Main study outcomes
- Atopic dermatitis diagnosed by UK working party diagnostic criteria
- FeNO₂, Spirogram at 8, 10, and 12 years of age.
- Total IgE and allergen specific IgE (DLC methods) at 2, 4, 6, 10, 12 yrs.

Adjunct Studies = participants recruited by each regional center conducted by regional centers with extramural funding

Pilot Study = 400

- FeNO₂, Spirogram at 6, 8, 10, and 12 years of age.
- Total IgE and allergen specific IgE (DLC methods) at 2, 4, 6, 10, 12 yrs

Measured exposures and outcomes in the published works

Main study

- Questionnaire in pregnancy
- Parental blood metals (Cd, Pb, Hg, Se, Mn) in pregnancy
- Parental serum IgE (specific and total) in pregnancy
- Birth weight and length of off-springs

Adjunct study

- Maternal vit.D in pregnancy
- Desert dust exposed in Toyama, Kyoto, and Tottori regions

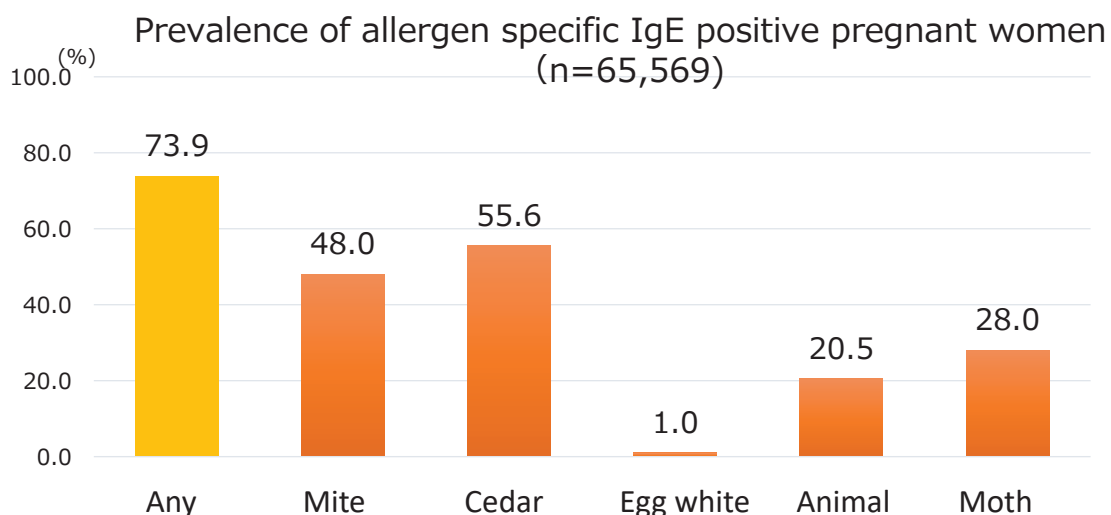
Pilot study

- Allergenic proteins contained in house dust collected from children's bed sheets

Publications related to allergic diseases

- Allergic profiles of mothers and fathers in the Japan Environment and Children's Study (JECS): a nationwide birth cohort study. Yamamoto-Hanada et al. World Allergy Organization Journal. 2017;10(1):24 **Main study**
- Having small-for-gestational-age infants was associated with maternal allergic features in the JECS birth cohort. Saito M et.al Allergy 2018 Sep;73(9):1908-1911
- Associations Between Metal Levels in Whole Blood and IgE Concentrations in Pregnant Women Based on Data From the Japan Environment and Children's Study. Tsuji M et.al. J Epidemiology 20180098
- Allergy and mental health among pregnant women in the Japan Environment and Children's Stud. Yamamoto-Hanada K et.al. JACI in Prac 2018;6:1421-1424
- Dietary intake of fish and ω -3 polyunsaturated fatty acids and physician-diagnosed allergy in Japanese population: The Japan Environment and Children's Study. Hamazaki K et.al. Nutrition 2019;61:194-201
- Effect of desert dust exposure on allergic symptoms. A natural experiment in Japan. Kanatani KT et.al. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 2016;116(4):25-30 **Adjunct study**
- Association between vitamin D deficiency and allergic symptom in pregnant women. Kanatani KT et.al. Plos one 14(4) e0214797
- Egg antigen was more abundant than mite antigen in children's bedding: Findings of the pilot study of the Japan Environment and Children's Study (JECS). Kitazawa H et.al. Allergol Int 2019 68: 391-393. **Pilot study**

Three quarters of pregnant women who joined JECS have allergic diathesis

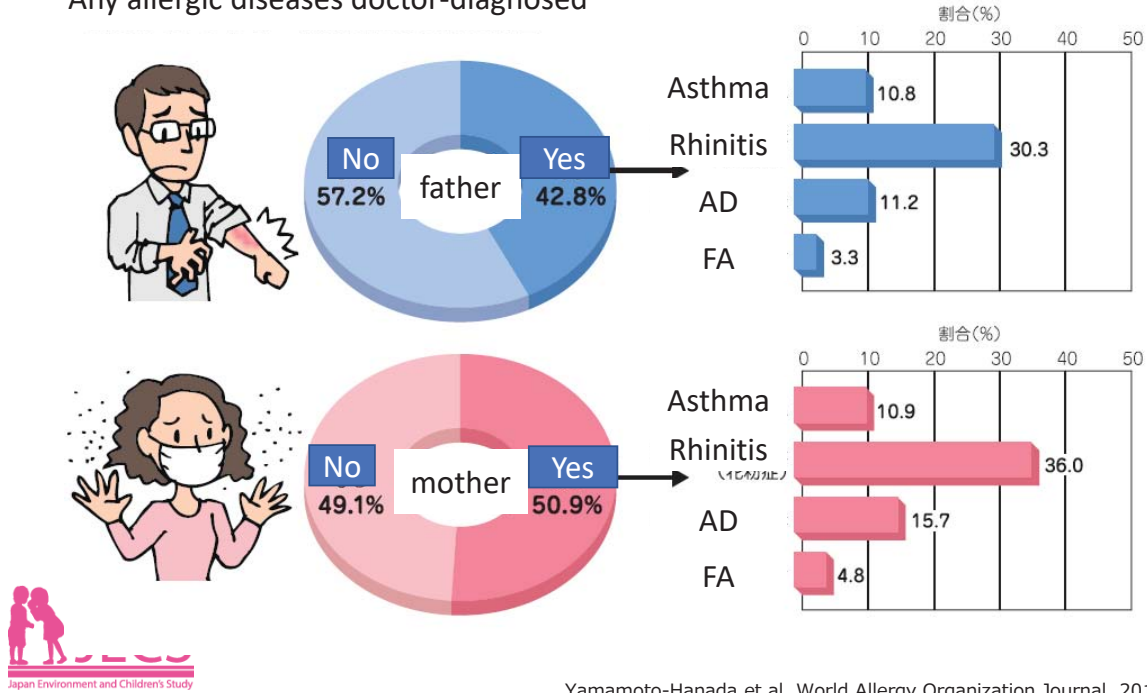


73.9 % pregnant women were sensitized to any allergen. JCP showed the highest prevalence 55.6%. House dust mite was sensitized in 48% of them.



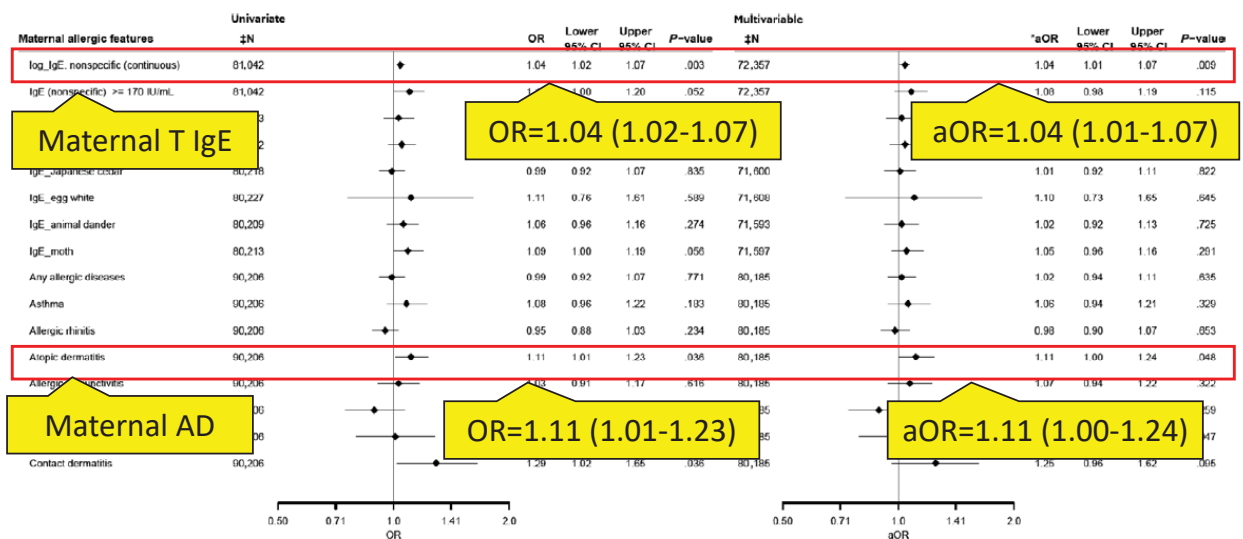
About half parents of participants have history of any allergic diseases

Any allergic diseases doctor-diagnosed



Yamamoto-Hanada et al. World Allergy Organization Journal. 2017;10(1):24.

Maternal atopic dermatitis and higher total IgE were positively associated with Small for Gestational age (SGA) of off-springs



Yamamoto-Hanada K et al. Allergy 2018;73(9):1908-1911.



Associations Between Metal Levels in Whole Blood and IgE Concentrations in Pregnant Women Based on Data From the Japan Environment and Children's Study

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Results of multivariable analysis in the relationship between quartile concentration of Hg in pregnant women and allergen-specific IgEs

Table with 4 columns: Hg (ng/g), Animal dander, HDM, JCP. Rows show quartiles Q1-Q4 and Mn. Odds ratios and P-values are provided for each allergen.

IgE, immunoglobulin E.

Odds ratios and corresponding 95% confidence intervals and P values were obtained using multivariable logistic regression analysis adjusted for age, BMI, allergic diseases (asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, allergic conjunctivitis, food allergy, drug allergy), smoking during pregnancy, smoking habits of partner, alcohol consumption during pregnancy, owning pets, month of T1 blood sampling, and geographic region.

Allergy and mental health among pregnant women in the Japan Environment and Children's Study

Yamamoto-Hanada K et.al. JACI in Prac 2018;6:1421-1424

Participants: pregnant women (main study)

Outcome variables: K-6* in pregnancy
SF8(MCS*)
SF8(PCS*)

Exploratory variables: TlgE, slgE in pregnancy
past history of allergic diseases

*

K-6: Kessler's K-6 Non-Specific Psychological Distress Scale
MCS: mental component summary
PCS: physical component summary

Depression of pregnant women was associated with higher titer of House Dust Mite, animal allergens mix, moth, any allergic diseases (Asthma, Eczema, rhino-conjunctivitis, Food allergy, Drug allergy and contact dermatitis)

K-6 (≥ 5)	None (reference)								
Any depression									
log_IgE, nonspecific (continuous)	1.02	1.01	1.03	.0001	1.01	1.00	1.02	.051	
IgE (nonspecific) ≥ 170 UA/mL	1.05	1.01	1.09	.0112	1.05	0.98	1.05	.429	
IgE_sensitization to any specific allergen	1.02	0.98	1.05	.2901	1.01	0.97	1.05	.623	
IgE_ <i>Der p 1</i>	1.06	1.03	1.10	<.0001	1.05	1.02	1.08	.001	
IgE_Japanese cedar	1.00	0.97	1.04	.7775	0.98	0.95	1.02	.279	
IgE_egg white	1.04	0.89	1.21	.6205	1.02	0.88	1.19	.796	
IgE_animal allergen mixes	1.08	1.04	1.12	.0001	1.05	1.01	1.09	.021	
IgE_moth	1.06	1.02	1.09	.0012	1.05	1.01	1.08	.009	
Any allergic diseases	1.23	1.19	1.27	<.0001	1.25	1.21	1.29	<.000	
Asthma	1.31	1.25	1.37	<.0001	1.28	1.22	1.34	<.000	
Allergic rhinitis	1.18	1.14	1.21	<.0001	1.20	1.17	1.24	<.000	
Eczema	1.18	1.14	1.23	<.0001	1.17	1.12	1.22	<.000	
Allergic conjunctivitis	1.28	1.22	1.35	<.0001	1.32	1.26	1.39	<.000	
Food allergy	1.35	1.26	1.44	<.0001	1.33	1.24	1.42	<.000	
Drug allergy	1.28	1.17	1.40	<.0001	1.35	1.23	1.48	<.000	
Contact dermatitis	1.45	1.31	1.61	<.0001	1.55	1.40	1.72	<.000	

Severe depression of pregnant women was associated with higher titer of sIgE to **Egg white, Asthma, Eczema, Allergic conjunctivitis, Food allergy and Contact dermatitis**

Outcome	Allergy features	Univariate				Multivariate			
		OR	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P value	aOR	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P value
K-6 (≥13)	None (reference)								
Severe depression	log_IgE_nonspecific (continuous)	1.03	1.01	1.06	.0172	1.01	0.98	1.04	.4935
	IgE (nonspecific) ≥170 UA/mL	1.16	1.06	1.27	.0015	1.08	0.98	1.18	.1124
	IgE_sensitization to any specific allergen	0.96	0.88	1.05	.3217	0.94	0.86	1.03	.1855
	IgE_Der p 1	1.04	0.96	1.12	.3514	1.01	0.93	1.09	.8083
	IgE_Japanese cedar	0.93	0.86	1.01	.0892	0.90	0.83	0.98	.0134
	IgE_egg white	1.57	1.14	2.16	.0059	1.53	1.11	2.11	.0010
	IgE_animal allergen mixes	1.08	0.98	1.19	.1052	1.03	0.93	1.13	.6135
	IgE_moth	1.11	1.02	1.21	.0180	1.08	0.99	1.17	.1023
	Any allergic disease	1.20	1.11	1.30	<.0001	1.25	1.15	1.35	<.0001
	Asthma	1.57	1.41	1.75	<.0001	1.49	1.34	1.66	<.0001
	Allergic rhinitis	1.05	0.97	1.14	.2025	1.11	1.02	1.20	.0132
	Eczema	1.22	1.11	1.35	<.0001	1.22	1.10	1.35	.0002
	Allergic conjunctivitis	1.18	1.05	1.34	.0073	1.26	1.12	1.43	.0002
	Food allergy	1.44	1.23	1.69	<.0001	1.40	1.20	1.64	<.0001
	Drug allergy	1.38	1.11	1.71	.0032	1.54	1.24	1.91	<.0001
	Contact dermatitis	1.35	1.06	1.73	.0163	1.53	1.19	1.96	.0008

Yamamoto-Hanada K et.al. JACI inPrac 2018;6:1421-1424

Physical aspect of quality of life (SF8-PCS) in pregnant women with any allergic disease (asthma, eczema, allergic rhino-conjunctivitis, food allergy, drug allergy and contact dermatitis) was worse than those without allergic disease.

TABLE II. Univariate and multivariate linear regression results for allergic features associated with quality of life (SF-8) in pregnant women across Japan (n = 77,639)

Outcome	Allergy features	Univariate				Multivariate			
		Coefficient	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P value	Coefficient	Lower 95% CI	Upper 95% CI	P value
SF-8 (PCS)	None (reference)								
	log_IgE_nonspecific (continuous)	0.039	0.003	0.075	.0345	0.010	-0.026	0.046	.581
	IgE (nonspecific) ≥170 UA/mL	0.163	0.041	0.285	.0087	0.163	-0.062	0.181	.337
	IgE_sensitization to any specific allergen	-0.043	-0.16	0.074	.4721	-0.034	-0.151	0.083	.565
	IgE_Der p 1	-0.099	-0.202	0.004	.0607	-0.145	-0.247	-0.042	.005
	IgE_Japanese cedar	0.012	-0.092	0.115	.8232	0.024	-0.084	0.132	.666
	IgE_egg	0.174	-0.341	0.689	.5076	0.184	-0.327	0.695	.480
	IgE_animal allergen mixes	0.031	-0.096	0.158	.6333	-0.029	-0.157	0.098	.651
	IgE_moth	-0.051	-0.165	0.064	.3875	-0.089	-0.203	0.025	.126
	Any allergic disease	-0.904	-1.007	-0.801	<.0001	-0.840	-0.942	-0.738	<.000
	Asthma	-0.934	-1.100	-0.769	<.0001	-1.006	-1.170	-0.841	<.000
	Allergic rhinitis	-0.827	-0.934	-0.721	<.0001	-0.756	-0.863	-0.650	<.000
	Eczema	-0.606	-0.747	-0.465	<.0001	-0.587	-0.727	-0.447	<.000
	Allergic conjunctivitis	-1.105	-1.275	-0.934	<.0001	-1.025	-1.195	-0.855	<.000
	Food allergy	-1.19	-1.429	-0.952	<.0001	-1.187	-1.424	-0.949	<.000
	Drug allergy	-1.705	-2.025	-1.386	<.0001	-1.501	-1.819	-1.184	<.000
	Contact dermatitis	-1.501	-1.868	-1.133	<.0001	-1.353	-1.719	-0.988	<.000

Yamamoto-Hanada K et.al. JACI inPrac 2018;6:1421-1424

Mental aspect of quality of life (SF8-MCS) in pregnant women with any allergic disease (asthma, eczema, allergic rhinoconjunctivitis, food allergy, drug allergy and contact dermatitis) was also worse than those without.

SF-8 (MCS)	None (reference)								
log_IgE, nonspecific (continuous)		-0.046	-0.082	-0.010	.0115	-0.022	-0.058	0.014	.2290
IgE (nonspecific) \geq 170 UA/mL		-0.113	-0.233	0.008	.0664	-0.113	-0.159	0.081	.5252
IgE sensitization to any specific allergen		-0.021	-0.137	0.095	.7242	0.007	-0.109	0.123	.9085
IgE_Der p 1		-0.125	-0.227	-0.023	.0160	-0.091	-0.192	0.011	.0799
IgE_Japanese cedar		-0.038	-0.140	0.064	.4690	0.004	-0.103	0.111	.9380
IgE_egg		-0.32	-0.828	0.189	.2177	-0.253	-0.758	0.252	.3265
IgE_animal allergen mixes		-0.113	-0.239	0.012	.0772	-0.027	-0.153	0.099	.6764
IgE_moth		-0.066	-0.179	0.047	.2521	-0.029	-0.142	0.084	.6161
Any allergic disease		-0.514	-0.615	-0.412	<.0001	-0.56	-0.661	-0.459	<.0001
Asthma		-0.574	-0.738	-0.410	<.0001	-0.513	-0.676	-0.350	<.0001
Allergic rhinitis		-0.424	-0.529	-0.318	<.0001	-0.489	-0.594	-0.383	<.0001
Eczema		-0.385	-0.524	-0.246	<.0001	-0.375	-0.514	-0.237	<.0001
Allergic conjunctivitis		-0.599	-0.768	-0.430	<.0001	-0.676	-0.844	-0.508	<.0001
Food allergy		-0.576	-0.811	-0.340	<.0001	-0.527	-0.761	-0.292	<.0001
Drug allergy		-0.676	-0.992	-0.360	<.0001	-0.799	-1.113	-0.484	<.0001
Contact dermatitis		-0.783	-1.146	-0.420	<.0001	-0.933	-1.294	-0.572	<.0001

Adjustors for multivariate analysis: maternal age, place of residence, marital status, having another child, history of abnormal pregnancy, current smoking status, employment status, and maternal education level. Statistically significant results shown in bold font.

Yamamoto-Hanada K et.al. JACI inPrac 2018;6:1421-1424



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Nutrition

journal homepage: www.nutritionjrn.com



Applied nutritional investigation

Dietary intake of fish and ω -3 polyunsaturated fatty acids and physician-diagnosed allergy in Japanese population: The Japan Environment and Children's Study



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Fish and ω -3 PUFA intake were associated with increased risk for some allergic diseases except asthma

Any of four allergies

Fish intake 7.3 (Median g/d)	20.3	31.7	45.9	76.0		
n	15 741	15 561	15 918	15 689	15 712	
Cases	7409	7612	7969	7975	7889	
OR	1.00	1.08 (1.031.13)	1.13 (1.081.18)	1.16 (1.111.22)	1.13 (1.081.19)	<0.0001
aOR	1.00	1.05 (1.001.10)	1.08 (1.041.13)	1.11 (1.061.16)	1.07 (1.021.12)	0.0007

ω 3PUFA 0.91 (Median g/d)	1.37	1.75	2.21	3.13		
n	15694	15734	15637	15867	15689	
Cases	7428	7744	7819	8025	7837	
OR	1.00	1.08 (1.031.13)	1.11 (1.061.16)	1.14 (1.091.19)	1.11 (1.061.16)	<0.0001
aOR	1.00	1.04 (1.001.09)	1.06 (1.011.11)	1.07 (1.021.13)	1.03 (0.971.09)	0.11

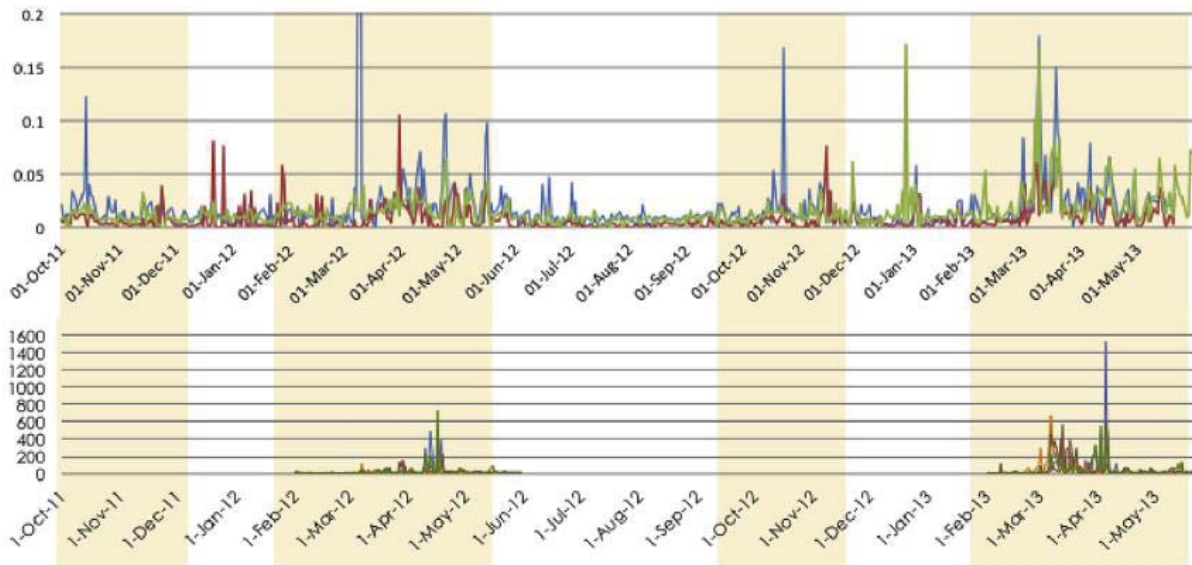
Hamazaki K et.al. Nutrition 2019;61:194-201

Mothers

Fish intake	Quintile for fish intake					P_{trend}
	1 (low)	2	3	4	5 (high)	
Median intake of fish*, g/d	7.3	20.3	31.7	45.9	76.0	
All participants, n	15 741	15 561	15 918	15 689	15 712	
Any of four allergies						
Cases, n	7409	7612	7969	7975	7889	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	1.08 (1.03–1.13)	1.13 (1.08–1.18)	1.16 (1.11–1.22)	1.13 (1.08–1.19)	<0.0001
Adjusted odds ratio [†]	1.00	1.05 (1.00–1.10)	1.08 (1.04–1.13)	1.11 (1.06–1.16)	1.07 (1.02–1.12)	0.0007
Asthma						
Cases, n	1767	1611	1678	1746	1800	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	0.91 (0.85–0.98)	0.93 (0.87–1.00)	0.99 (0.92–1.06)	1.02 (0.95–1.10)	0.12
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	0.94 (0.87–1.01)	0.97 (0.90–1.04)	1.03 (0.96–1.11)	1.05 (0.97–1.13)	0.03
Allergic rhinitis or pollinosis						
Cases, n	5401	5561	5905	5915	5891	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	1.06 (1.02–1.12)	1.13 (1.08–1.18)	1.16 (1.11–1.21)	1.15 (1.10–1.20)	<0.0001
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	1.02 (0.98–1.07)	1.06 (1.01–1.11)	1.08 (1.03–1.13)	1.06 (1.01–1.11)	0.005
Allergic conjunctivitis						
Cases, n	1442	1547	1653	1653	1700	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	1.09 (1.01–1.18)	1.15 (1.07–1.24)	1.17 (1.08–1.26)	1.20 (1.12–1.29)	<0.0001
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	1.06 (0.98–1.14)	1.09 (1.01–1.18)	1.10 (1.02–1.19)	1.14 (1.06–1.24)	0.0008
Any of four allergies						
Cases, n	2439	2505	2537	2579	2546	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	1.05 (0.98–1.11)	1.03 (0.97–1.10)	1.07 (1.01–1.14)	1.05 (0.99–1.12)	0.06
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	1.05 (0.99–1.12)	1.05 (0.98–1.11)	1.09 (1.02–1.16)	1.07 (1.00–1.14)	0.02
ω 3PUFA intake						
Median intake of ω -3 PUF*, g/d	0.91	1.37	1.75	2.21	3.13	
All participants, n	15 694	15 734	15 637	15 867	15 689	
Any of four allergies						
Cases, n	7428	7744	7819	8025	7837	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	1.08 (1.03–1.13)	1.11 (1.06–1.16)	1.14 (1.09–1.19)	1.11 (1.06–1.16)	<0.0001
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	1.04 (1.00–1.09)	1.06 (1.01–1.11)	1.07 (1.02–1.13)	1.03 (0.97–1.09)	0.11
Asthma						
Cases, n	1797	1661	1645	1743	1756	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	0.91 (0.85–0.98)	0.91 (0.85–0.98)	0.95 (0.89–1.02)	0.97 (0.91–1.05)	0.9
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	0.94 (0.87–1.01)	0.93 (0.86–1.00)	0.97 (0.90–1.04)	0.95 (0.87–1.04)	0.4
Allergic rhinitis or pollinosis						
Cases, n	5371	5668	5806	5988	5840	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	1.08 (1.03–1.13)	1.14 (1.08–1.19)	1.16 (1.11–1.22)	1.14 (1.09–1.19)	<0.0001
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	1.04 (0.99–1.09)	1.07 (1.02–1.12)	1.08 (1.03–1.14)	1.04 (0.98–1.10)	0.04
Allergic conjunctivitis						
Cases, n	1455	1573	1650	1704	1614	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	1.09 (1.01–1.17)	1.15 (1.07–1.24)	1.18 (1.09–1.27)	1.12 (1.04–1.21)	0.0003
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	1.05 (0.98–1.14)	1.11 (1.02–1.20)	1.13 (1.04–1.22)	1.09 (0.99–1.20)	0.02
Any of four allergies						
Cases, n	2400	2499	2572	2554	2513	
Crude odds ratio	1.00	1.01 (0.95–1.07)	1.06 (0.99–1.12)	1.03 (0.97–1.09)	1.02 (0.96–1.09)	0.4
Adjusted odds ratio	1.00	1.01 (0.95–1.08)	1.05 (0.99–1.12)	1.03 (0.96–1.10)	1.03 (0.95–1.11)	0.4

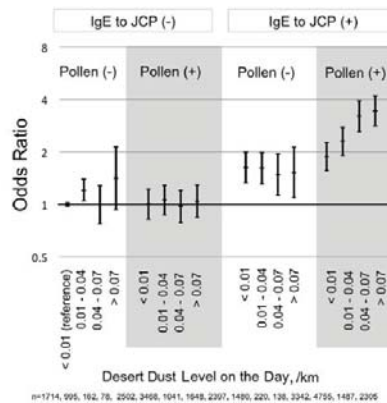
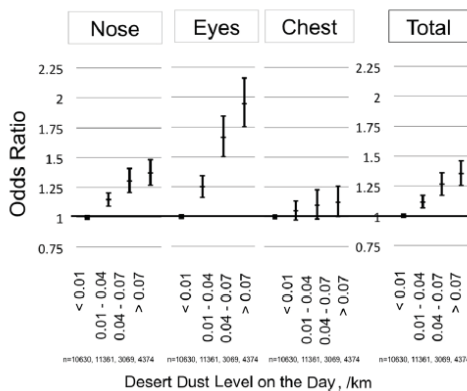
Hamazaki K et.al. Nutrition 2019;61:194-201

Time course of daily dust level in kilometers (upper) and pollen counts in cubic meters (lower) during the study period (shaded).

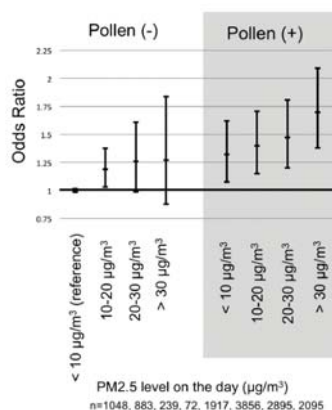
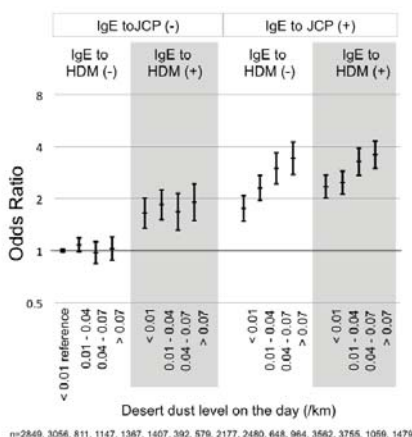


For dust levels, blue indicates Kyoto (Higashi-Osaka); red, Toyama; and green, Tottori (Matsue). For pollen counts, blue indicates Kyoto (Kyoto City area); purple, Kyoto (Nagahama area); green, Kyoto (Kizugawa area); red, Toyama; and orange, Tottori.

Kanatani KT et.al. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 2016;116:425-30



Pregnant women had an increased risk of allergic symptoms on high desert-dust days. The increased OR was mostly driven by those who showed positive IgE to Japanese cedar pollen when pollen simultaneously dispersed. No clear risk increase was observed in the absence of pollen or for participants with negative IgE to Japanese cedar pollen. The risk elevation was observed from low levels of desert dust in a dose-dependent manner even on control days.



Kanatani KT et.al. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol 2016;116:425-30

RESEARCH ARTICLE

Association between vitamin D deficiency and allergic symptom in pregnant women

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Kanatani KT, et al. PLoS ONE 2019;14(4): e0214797.

Serum concentration of vitamin D varies throughout the year

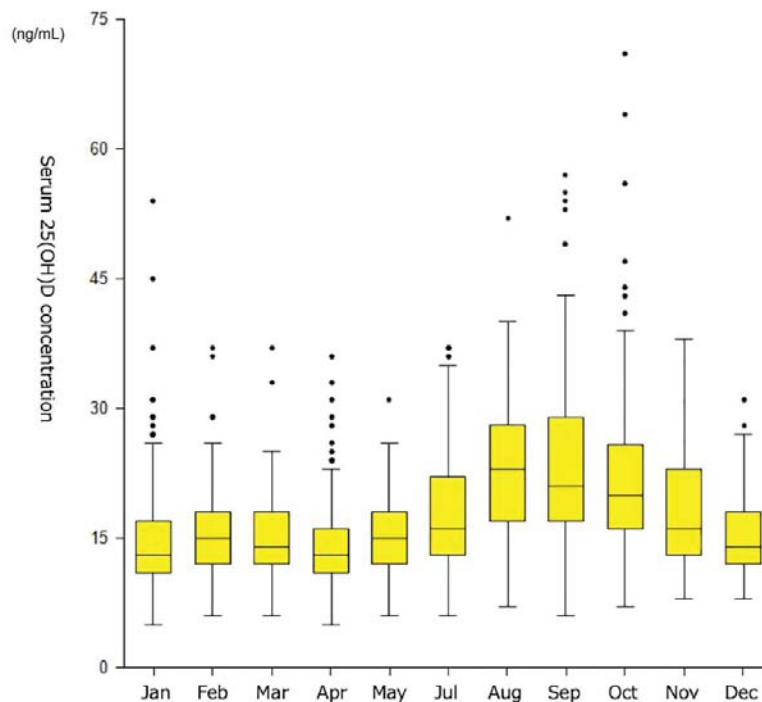


Fig 3. Serum 25(OH)D levels in relation to sampled months. Serum 25(OH)D was less than 20ng/mL in 1,233 of 1,745 samples (70.7%). There was a clear seasonal change with a peak at the end of summer and a trough in early spring. The median level of serum 25(OH)D in each season was 15, 14, 19, and 20 ng/mL in winter (Dec-Feb), spring (Mar-May), summer (Jul-Aug) and autumn (Sep-Nov).

Kanatani KT, et al. PLoS ONE 2019;14(4): e0214797.

Serum 25(OH)D was less than 20ng/mL in 1,233 of 1,745 samples (70.7%). The adjusted odds ratio (aOR) for occurrence of any allergic symptom in deficient cases compared with non-deficient cases was 1.33 (95% CI: 1.07–1.64, $p = 0.01$). Further, vitamin D deficiency significantly enhanced the risk increase at desert dust events and at pollen exposure (p -values for interaction < 0.1).

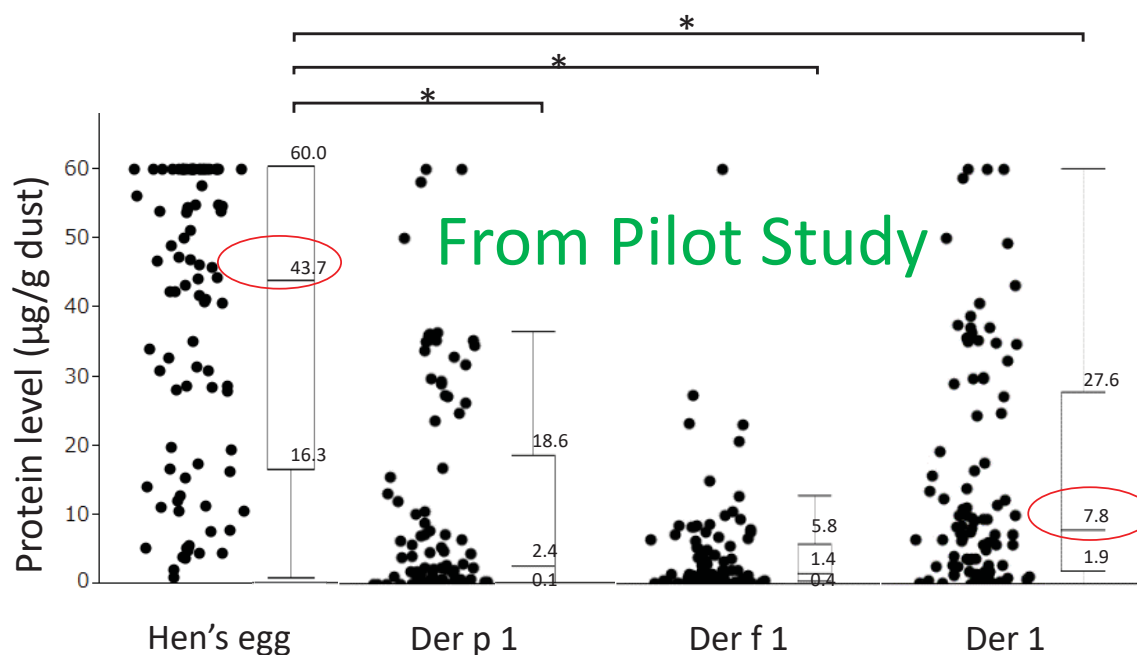
Table 2. Odds ratio (OR) and its 95% Confidence Interval (95%CI) for allergic symptom development.

	OR	95% CI		P value
Vitamin D deficiency ^a	1.33	1.07	– 1.64	.009
IgE to cedar pollen (per class increase)	1.28	1.21	– 1.35	$< .001$
IgE to house dust mite (per class increase)	1.10	1.03	– 1.18	.008

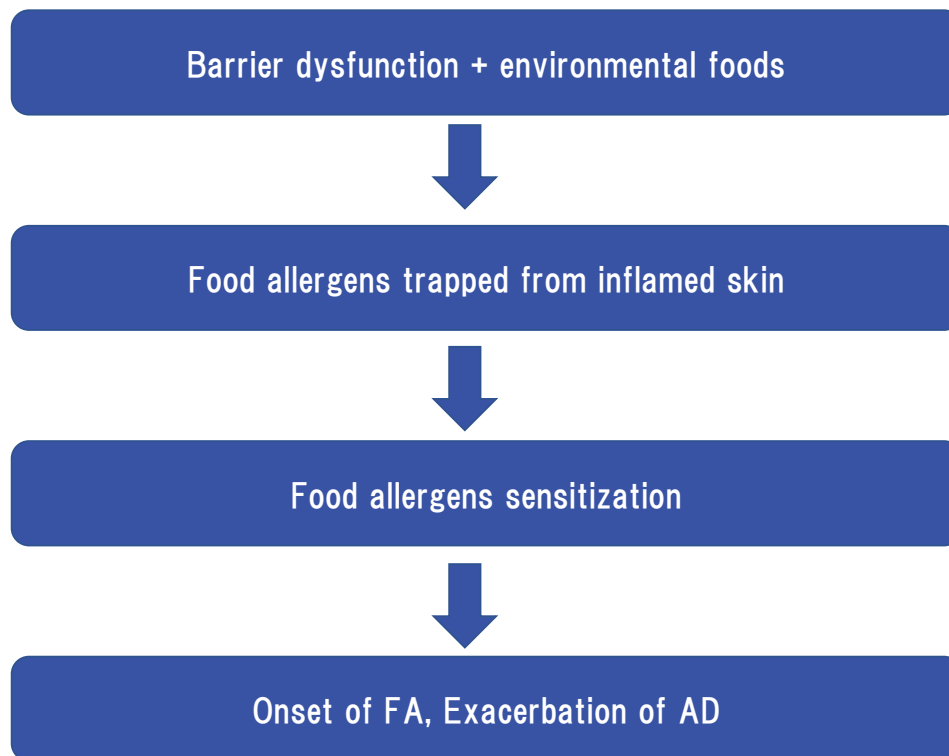
Vit.D deficiency increased the risk of allergic symptom when exposed to desert dust events and IgE positive to JCP and HDM was also risk factors.

Kanatani KT, et al. PLoS ONE 2019;14(4): e0214797.

Egg protein was detected from house dust collected From bed sheets in all participants' houses



Wilcoxon rank-sum test * $p < 0.001$



Summary

- The primary aim of JECS is to examine environmental influence on children's health
- Half of pregnant mothers have history of allergic diseases and $\frac{3}{4}$ of mothers have been sensitized with any allergens
- Hg influences allergen sensitization in different manner due to the kinds of allergens.
- Adjunct studies revealed the influence of desert dust on allergy and a pilot study showed house dust of all participants' house contained egg proteins.
- Important exposure variables including environmental chemicals that might influence the onset of allergic diseases are to be analyzed

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