

1 **Far beyond the IgE**  
2 **Insights into the clinical profile of allergic patients**  
3 **with selective IgE deficiency, urticarial vasculitis,**  
4 **allergic pharyngitis, and perennial allergic**  
5 **conjunctivitis**

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**Authors' contributions**

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11 *This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. The author CEO designed the*  
12 *study and wrote the protocol; the first draft of the manuscript and managed the literature*  
13 *searches. Authors DGP, APMT, JLSS, RPSL, and ESM extract the studied allergens.*  
14 *Authors DGP, APMT, JLSS, and RPSL performed laboratory research. Author RAPGS*  
15 *performed cutaneous tests. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.*

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**ABSTRACT**

**Aims:** Medical literature defines the diagnosis of “selective IgE deficiency” (slgEd) as the individuals able to produce, at normal amounts, all antibodies’ classes, and subclasses, with exception of the IgE, which is not found by the laboratory detection method (usually below 2.0 kIU/L). Patients with slgEd may present non—IgE-mediated allergies/hypersensitivities, turning them into ideal subjects to study these conditions.

**Study design:** To evaluate by a retrospective chart review the allergic conditions of the slgEd cohort population attended at an Allergy and Immunology medical facility.

**Place and Duration of Study:** Instituto Alergoimuno de Americana - São Paulo – Brazil – between January 2018 and January 2023.

**Methodology:** A population of 6.584 allergic patients, from which 44 (0,6%) meet the criteria for the diagnosis of SlgEd. The prevalence of the medically diagnosed allergic conditions was compared between the groups with detectable IgE and non-detectable IgE to extrapolate the Relative Risk (RR).

**Results:** The RR of Urticarial Vasculitis for the individuals with slgEd was 64.2 in relation to the individuals with detectable IgE. The RR of Allergic Pharyngitis for the individuals with slgEd was 2.65 in relation to the individuals with detectable IgE. The RR of Perennial Allergic Conjunctivitis for the individuals with slgEd was 2.14 in relation to the individuals with detectable IgE.

**Conclusion:** The comparison of the prevalence of allergic diseases among two cohorts with detectable and undetectable IgE showed a great tendency for Urticarial Vasculitis and a moderate tendency to develop Allergic Pharyngitis and Perennial Allergic Conjunctivitis among the slgEd population.

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21 *Keywords: Allergic Conjunctivitis, Allergic Pharyngitis, Allergy, Hypersensitivity, IgE,*  
22 *Immunodeficiency, Selective IgE Deficiency, Urticarial Vasculitis.*

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**1. INTRODUCTION**

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The great diversity of phenotypes and endotypes of allergen-immunoreactive diseases is astonishing. A long list of conditions that affect several aspects of human

29 physiology, through specific and nonspecific clinical presentations, in diverse graduations of  
30 severity (from the almost unperceivable immunoreactive chronic inflammatory conditions,  
31 such as gluten-related gastrointestinal disorders, to IgE-mediated life-threatening  
32 anaphylaxis) are widely grouped under the general designation of “Allergy” [1]. Although, a  
33 more technical keyword is preferred by the Medical Subject Headings of the US National  
34 Library of Medicine: “Hypersensitivity” [2]. Most of these conditions, long before the  
35 conceptualization of the participation of the immune system in allergic diseases, were  
36 studied by their organ-related symptoms, characterizing organ-specific diseases (allergic  
37 rhinitis, allergic conjunctivitis, allergic bronchitis, atopic dermatitis, eosinophilic esophagitis,  
38 etc.). Most of these diseases and syndromes are dealt with by organ-focused medical  
39 specialties, such as Dermatology, Pneumology, Otorhinolaryngology, Ophthalmology,  
40 Gastroenterology, and so on, with main attention on the control of the symptoms and the  
41 inflammation associated with their affected organs. However, the accumulation of knowledge  
42 about the immune system allowed the creation of a new medical specialty known as  
43 Allergology, which focuses on A) the diagnosis of the responsible allergens; B) the study of  
44 the immune mechanisms (Pathology); and C) their causal treatment (desensitization) [3].  
45 However, the great complexity of the Immune System does not allow a simple and punctual  
46 interpretation of allergic diseases [4].

47 The vertebrate Immune System is primarily divided into two evolutionary arms: the  
48 Innate Immune System (more ancient) and the Adaptive Immune System (more recent);  
49 both can participate in allergic reactions [5]. As the Adaptive Immune System evolves from  
50 and commands the Innate Immune System, this division is more evolutionary than functional  
51 [6]. The Immune System can also be divided into two interactive arms: the Humoral and the  
52 Cellular; both participating in allergic reactions. As the humoral compound is produced and  
53 secreted by the cellular compound, this division is more morphologic/biochemical than  
54 functional. The main humoral component of the Innate Immune System is the cascade of  
55 proteins known as the Complement System [7]. The main humoral components of the  
56 Adaptive Immune System are the several classes of antibodies (immunoglobulins).  
57 Cytokines are soluble substances produced by innate and adaptive immune cells to induce  
58 pro- or anti-inflammatory cellular responses and induce cellular migration (a particular subset  
59 of the cytokines, called chemokines) [8]. The great majority of the immune cells belong to the  
60 Innate Immune System (Macrophages, Neutrophils, Eosinophils, Basophils, Mast Cells,  
61 Dendritic Cells, and so on). The main cellular components of the Adaptive Immune System  
62 are the Lymphocytes, specialized in orchestrating the immune reaction (T cells) or producing  
63 effector antibodies (B cells and Plasma cells). According to the involvement of the Innate,  
64 Adaptive, Humoral, and Cellular arms, Gell and Coombs once classified the mechanisms of  
65 hypersensitivity into four types: Type I) IgE-mediated; Type II) Antibody-dependent  
66 cytotoxicity; Type III) Immune-complexes-mediated and Type IV) Cellular [9]. The last three  
67 hypersensitivity reactions are also referred to as the Non—IgE-mediated allergic reactions.  
68 This classification has a clinical focus, however, as these hypersensitivity mechanisms may  
69 concomitantly participate in the same allergic disease, this classification may sometimes be  
70 more academic than pragmatic. The inflammation produced by the allergic reactions can  
71 also be classified according to the type of cytokines commanding the effector cells, such as  
72 A) Type I Inflammation mediated by cytokines generated by and secreted under the  
73 influence of the CD4+ T lymphocytes known as T helper 1 cell (Th1); or B) Type II  
74 Inflammation, commanded by the cytokines generated by and secreted under the influence  
75 of the CD4+ T lymphocytes known as T helper 2 cells (Th2). Other subsets of the Adaptive  
76 response are known for their regulatory activity (Th3 and Treg) [10, 11]. The allergic  
77 inflammation may be also histologically classified according to the cellular participation of the  
78 compromised tissue, as it is predominantly caused by Mast cells, Basophils, Eosinophils,  
79 Neutrophils, and/or Lymphocytes, for instance [12-15]. The allergen inflammation may also  
80 be produced by aggregated and surmounted mechanisms such as described by the

81 Immediate-Phase Immune Response and the Late-Phase Immune Response, both  
82 processed in the same location on different timelines, by different players [16]. The Innate  
83 Immune System is strongly influenced by the Adaptive Immune system, as one can testify by  
84 the massive presence of antibody receptors on the surface membrane of the innate immune  
85 cells. Even typically effector cells, such as the neutrophils have on their surface receptors for  
86 antibodies typically involved in allergic reactions, such as the IgE and the IgG [17, 18].  
87 Lately, innate immune responses such as the Extracellular Nets are gaining crescent interest  
88 in the study of infectious and hypersensitivity reactions [19]. The improvement of the innate  
89 immune response of the allergic patient by “immune training” is a medical practice used  
90 since the eighties, performed by the administration of inactivated bacterial antigens to  
91 allergic patients with recurrent infections. Mechanistic studies have demonstrated that one of  
92 the effects of this unspecific immunotherapy is the increase of the differentiation of  
93 regulatory Lymphocytes (Treg) that produce and stimulate the production of tolerogenic  
94 cytokines such as the TGF-beta, that stimulate the production of tolerogenic antibodies, such  
95 as the secretory IgA, justifying the prescription of this treatment for IgE-mediated and  
96 Non- IgE-mediated allergic patients [20-23].

97 Immunodeficiencies, especially the different kinds of hypo-immunoglobulin  
98 syndromes, may contribute to immune dysregulation and the production of diseases. The  
99 treatment of these conditions with the therapeutic administration of exogenous gamma  
100 immunoglobulins may put light on the understanding of these questions, since this reposition  
101 may change the profile of a Non- IgE-mediated disease to an IgE-mediated condition [24].  
102 One of the more unfathomable immune conditions is familial selective IgE deficiency (slgEd)  
103 [25]. The slgEd was defined for individuals able to produce, at normal amounts, all  
104 antibodies' classes and subclasses, with exception of the IgE, which is not found by the  
105 laboratory detection method, usually below 2.0 kIU/L [26]. This condition has also been  
106 erroneously reported as “IgE hypogammaglobulinemia”, while the correct name would be  
107 “hypo-immunoglobulin E syndrome”, or, maybe, “hypoepsilonglobulinemia” since the  
108 “gamma immunoglobulin” is the IgG and the “epsilon immunoglobulin” is the IgE, both  
109 named after their gamma and epsilon heavy chains, respectively [27, 28]. However,  
110 “hypoepsilonglobulinemia” would be a weird term, since no one calls the “Hyper-IgE  
111 Syndrome” like “hyperepsilonglobulinemia”. The main clinical presentations reported in  
112 patients with slgEd are reactive airway diseases and skin manifestations, possibly  
113 associated with the innate immune system [27, 29, 30]. The mechanisms by which the  
114 slgEd cause or is associated with diseases are not elucidated, however, the slgEd may be  
115 seen as a marker of immune dysregulation [26]. Naturally, patients with slgEd may present  
116 concomitant diseases, which may (or not) be related to the IgE deficiency. Several reports  
117 had tried to establish a statistical correlation with allergies, autoimmune diseases, and  
118 tumoral diseases, however, it is difficult to differentiate the appearance of these diseases  
119 from what is normally expected from the sampled population [31]. This also occurs not only  
120 because the quantification of IgE is not a routine exam for most clinicians, but also, when  
121 researched, the medical professionals only give credit to the augmented levels, usually  
122 despising the report of an undetectable serum IgE [32].

123 The slgEd is a phenotype that deserves further studies, however, our primary  
124 interest in it is to use the slgEd as a model for studying the Non- IgE-mediated allergic  
125 reactions that these patients present, as well as to report the diagnosed clinical allergy  
126 syndromes and the allergens associated with the symptoms as elucidated with help of the in  
127 vivo tests, ex vivo challenge tests and research of precipitins.

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## 2. MATERIAL AND METHODS

## 131 **2.1 Subjects**

132 After receiving Institutional Review Board approval, from the Instituto Alergoimuno de  
133 Americana (Brazil), we proceed with a chart review of a population of 6.584 allergic patients,  
134 from which 46 (0.7%) presented with undetectable IgE. From these, 2 also had IgA  
135 deficiency, and so do not meet the criteria for the diagnosis of SIgEd. The final 44 patients  
136 (0,6% of the cohort population) were diagnosed with sIgEd and had their charts  
137 retrospectively studied (and compared with the 6.538 patients with detectable IgE). This was  
138 a very diversified cohort with 33 females; mean age 33.5 years; SD 23.9 years; range 1 to  
139 85 years; mode = 1 year (appeared 6 times); geometric mean = 18.3 years.

## 140 **2.2 In vivo investigation**

141 All patients were submitted to immediate reading skin tests, as previously reported [33].

## 142 **2.3 Laboratory Investigation**

143 To evaluate the presence of elements leading to the suspect of Gell & Coombs type II and  
144 type III hypersensitivity reactions we search some of the patients who had been submitted to  
145 the Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test and the Research of Precipitins against common  
146 allergens [34, 35].

### 147 **2.3.1 Research of tube precipitins**

148 Some patients were submitted to the research of precipitins, according to the suspected  
149 allergens identified by anamnesis. The tube precipitins were researched as previously  
150 described [36, 37].

### 151 **2.3.2 Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test**

152 Some patients were submitted to the Leukocyte Adherence Inhibition Test (LAIT), according  
153 to the suspected allergens identified by anamnesis. The LAIT was performed as previously  
154 described [38, 39].

## 155 **2.4 Antigen extraction**

156 Antigen extraction for the skin tests, LAIT, and the research of precipitins was performed as  
157 previously described [39, 40].

## 158 **3. RESULTS**

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160 Several patients presented more than one diagnosis. To present an amplified chart of  
161 conditions we classified our data according to the medical diagnosis, instead of patients, to  
162 show the panel of allergic diseases presented by the cohort of patients with sIgEd.

### 163 **3.1 Allergic Skin Tests**

164 All immediate reading allergic skin tests were “not reactive”.

### 165 **3.2 Urticarial vasculitis**

166 Urticarial vasculitis (UV) is a very rare condition. However, there was a disproportional  
167 number of patients with this condition that also presented sIgEd. In our cohort population,  
168 there were only seven patients with the diagnosis of urticarial vasculitis, out of which, two  
169 presented sIgEd (28.5%). When compared with the 0.6% of sIgEd from the total cohort, it is  
170 a great disparity. Among the 6.538 patients with detectable IgE, 5 had UV (0.07%). Among  
171 the 44 patients with sIgEd, 2 patients had UV (4.5%). Among our population, the relative risk  
172 of UV for individuals with sIgEd is 64.2 in relation to the individuals with detectable IgE.

### 173 **3.3 Allergic Pharyngitis**

174 Among the total enregistered population, 405 (6.1%) patients were medically diagnosed with  
175 Allergic Pharyngitis (AP). Out of which, seven patients (1.7%) were medically diagnosed with  
176 sIgEd; which is almost triple compared with the sIgEd proportion from the entire cohort  
177 (0.6%). Among the 6.538 patients with detectable IgE, 398 had AP (6.0%). Among the 44  
178 patients with sIgEd, 7 patients had AP (15.9%). Among our population, the relative risk of AP  
179 for individuals with sIgEd is 2.65 in relation to the individuals with detectable IgE.

### 180 **3.4 Perennial Allergic Conjunctivitis**

181 Among the total enregistered population, 281 (4.2%) patients were clinically diagnosed with  
182 Perennial Allergic Conjunctivitis (PAC). Out of which, four patients (1.4%) were medically  
183 diagnosed with sIgEd; which is more than double when compared with the sIgEd proportion  
184 from the entire cohort (0.6%). Among our population, the relative risk of PAC for the  
185 individuals with sIgEd was 2.14 in relation to the individuals with detectable IgE.

### 186 **3.5 Other allergic conditions**

187 Besides the above, other allergic conditions diagnosed within the sIgEd group were: cow's  
188 milk proteins allergy (4 cases); insect allergy (4 cases); oral allergy (1 case); intrinsic asthma  
189 (5 cases); gastrointestinal allergy (5 cases); intrinsic atopic dermatitis (14 cases); contact  
190 dermatitis (4 cases); intrinsic allergic rhinitis (20 cases); allergic sinusitis (1 case); and  
191 chronic urticaria (5 cases).

### 192 **3.6 Immunoassay results**

193 As a retrospective survey, there was not a common routine laboratory investigation. Here we  
194 report sparse complementary immune investigation performed in some of the cases.

195 A 49 years-old female with AP and sIgEd was investigated with the LAIT with the following  
196 results: A) Airborne fungi: 70% leukocyte adherence inhibition (LAI); B) Dermatophagoides  
197 pteronyssinus: 74% LAI; C) Cat dander: 74% LAI; D) Dog dander: 0% LAI; and E)  
198 beekeeping pollen: 0% LAI.

199 A 59 years-old female with AP and sIgEd was investigated with the LAIT with the following  
200 results: A) Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus: 76% LAI; B) Pork meat: 69% LAI; C) Cow's  
201 milk: 41% LAI; D) Cocoa: 57% LAI; and E) Hevea brasiliensis latex: 36% LAI.

202 A 50 years-old female with AP and sIgEd was investigated with the LAIT with the following  
203 results: A) Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus: 82% LAI; B) Airborne fungal extract: 16% LAI;  
204 C) Cow's milk: 0% LAI; D) ovalbumin: 81% LAI; and E) Hevea brasiliensis latex: 0% LAI.

205 A 64 years-old female with AP, PAC, and sIgEd was investigated with the LAIT with the  
206 following results: A) Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus: 61% LAI; B) Airborne fungal extract:  
207 57% LAI; C) Cat dander: 84% LAI; D) Dog dander: 82% LAI; and E) beekeeping pollen: 80%  
208 LAI. She was also investigated with the research of precipitins that showed positivity for: A)  
209 Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus 1:128; B) Peanuts 1:64; C) Pork meat: 1:32; D) Dog  
210 dander 1:128; E) Carmine cochineal extract 1:8.

211 A 1-year-old female with PAC and sIgEd was investigated with the LAIT with the following  
212 results: A) Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus: 63% LAI; B) Avocado: 92% LAI; C) Banana:  
213 13% LAI; D) Cocoa: 72% LAI; and E) Hevea brasiliensis latex: 38% LAI.

214

## 215 **4. DISCUSSION**

216

### 217 **4.1 Urticarial Vasculitis**

218 Urticarial Vasculitis (UV) is a rare clinicopathologic presentation of a Gell & Coombs type III  
219 hypersensitivity reaction (41). Classified as a “vasculitidis”: a disease produced by a  
220 “vasculitis” (vascular inflammation), UV differs from the common Urticaria by the extension of  
221 the vascular damage produced by the immune complexes deposition (42). Patients with UV  
222 may present typical indurated wheals that disappear in less than 24 hours, however, the  
223 main characteristics of the vasculitis lesions are their longer duration, the palpable purpura,  
224 and the hyperpigmentation left behind (43). Diascopy is a useful method for revealing  
225 inapparent purpura or hyperpigmentation occulted by the erythematous halo which  
226 disappears by vitropression (44). Inflammation is the main distinction between UV and  
227 Chronic Urticaria, and the quantification of the C-Reactive Protein and the Erythrocytic  
228 Sedimentation Rate may be useful for differential diagnosis (45). The tissue deposition of  
229 immune complexes activates the Complement cascade, consuming their components, in  
230 such a way that UV may be classified as “normocomplementemic” or  
231 “hypocomplementemic” (46, 47). The hypocomplementemic state may rather be reflecting  
232 the activity and the severity of the disease since after the “consumption” of the serum  
233 Complement components, the liver will provide the proteins to replenish systemic circulation  
234 again (48). The Complement cascade originates the anaphylatoxins (C3a and C5a  
235 components), that bind through specific receptors (C3aR, C5aR, and C5L2) on mast cells  
236 (eliciting degranulation) and other immune cells (producing and amplifying inflammation)  
237 (49). The skin biopsy typically shows a dynamic angiocentric infiltrate with leukocytoclastic  
238 neutrophils (or eosinophils). There is also endothelial swelling and fibrinoid necrosis in blood  
239 vessels (50). Several antigens have been associated with UV, including food allergens (51-  
240 53). Antigen-Antibodies immune complexes may be assembled with any bivalent antibody,  
241 including the IgE (54). At low concentrations, the immune complexes are adsorbed by the  
242 red cells’ membranes and eliminated via the reticuloendothelial system (55). However, at  
243 high concentrations, the immune complexes may deposit in the vascular bed, activating the  
244 Complement cascade and producing inflammation and clinical symptoms, depending on the  
245 affected organs, such as the cutaneous, digestive, musculoskeletal, renal, pulmonary,  
246 gastrointestinal, and ocular systems (56). The digestive inflammation can aggravate the  
247 intestinal hyperpermeability (leaky gut syndrome) increasing the undesirable absorption of  
248 undigested proteins, producing more immune complexes, and perpetuating the disease in a  
249 vicious circle (57, 58). Secondary infections may also be diagnosed in UV patients. Skin  
250 infection may aggravate the inflammatory condition, turning systemic antibiotics into a  
251 common first-line medication for UV patients (42). Our total cohort presented a little number  
252 of patients with UV. However, among the sIgEd patients, a much greater proportion of  
253 patients presented UV. Our cohort presented a relative risk of 64.2 for UV comparing  
254 patients with undetectable and detectable IgE, suggesting that UV may be rather a non-IgE-

255 mediated hypersensitivity condition. Our little sample does not allow us to take statistical  
256 significance from the results, but it gives us a strong suggestion about a possible relationship  
257 between UV and sIgEd.

## 258 **4.2 Allergic Pharyngitis (AP)**

259 The pharynx is a common way for air and food. The nose-inhaled air, the mouth-inhaled air,  
260 as well all the ingested food constantly in contact with the mucous membrane lining the  
261 pharynx and its associated lymphatic tissue, concentrated mainly within the Waldeyer lymph  
262 ring, referred to in some studies as NALT (Nose Associated Lymphoid Tissue) [57]. While  
263 acute pharyngitis is more common in infancy, chronic pharyngitis is more common through  
264 adulthood [58]. Several causes may be held responsible for chronic pharyngitis: acid reflux,  
265 a persistent bacterial infection of the sinuses and tonsils, breathing through the mouth  
266 instead of the nose, pollutants, food allergies, and allergies to inhalants [59]. Chronic  
267 pharyngitis is one of the most common conditions diagnosed at ENT practice, however, the  
268 diagnosis of its etiology as allergic is restrained by some issues [60]. Patients with Allergic  
269 Pharyngitis (AP) complain about persistent or recurrent burning and pruritus at the  
270 oropharynx [61]. To the clinical examination, they present hyperemic elevated plaques of  
271 reactive lymphoid tissue in the oropharynx [62]. Allergic pharyngitis is a condition  
272 recognized by the US National Library of Medicine and categorized under the code MedGen  
273 UID: 664143 [63]. Recognizing that no respiratory organ is free from allergies, ENT  
274 specialists also know allergic pharyngitis as “allergic chronic pharyngitis” or “allergic sore  
275 throat” [64, 65]. Most of our patients diagnosed with AP also presented occasional episodes  
276 of acute laryngitis, with hoarseness, hacking cough, inspiratory dyspnea, and paradoxical  
277 vocal fold motion demonstrated by the nasal allergen challenge monitored by spirometry  
278 [66]. AP is a condition usually diagnosed only by doctors with personal experience with its  
279 symptoms since the absence of unified diagnostic standards, treatment guidelines, and  
280 epidemiological data, produces a poor awareness of the condition, mainly when the  
281 oropharynx is not the main anatomical site of the symptoms [67]. However, when actively  
282 researched through anamnesis and a detailed physical examination, the number of patients  
283 with this diagnosis progressively increases in daily clinical practice. When the  
284 hypersensitivity is IgE-mediated, the relationship between chronic pharyngitis and allergies is  
285 easier to establish. However, the diagnosis of a non—IgE-mediated hypersensitivity is much  
286 more difficult to demonstrate. Our cohort presented a relative risk of 2.65 for AP comparing  
287 patients with undetectable and detectable IgE, suggesting that AP may be rather a non—IgE-  
288 mediated hypersensitivity condition.

## 289 **4.3 Perennial Allergic Conjunctivitis**

290 Allergic Conjunctivitis is a condition caused by the conjunctival inflammatory response to  
291 specific allergens [68]. Allergic Conjunctivitis has been classified by different authors, in  
292 different ways, according to their experience, resources, and current understanding of the  
293 immunologic mechanisms behind the disease’s physiopathology [69]. Anamnesis is a simple  
294 way to first classify ocular allergies as seasonal or perennial, according to the persistence of  
295 the symptoms. The second pass to classify ocular allergies is the ophthalmic examination,  
296 which will determine the sole involvement of the conjunctive, or a concomitant corneal and/or  
297 palpebral commitment. The prevailing laboratory resource for the practical allergist is  
298 currently specific IgE research. Hence, the third pass is to classify the ocular allergy as IgE-  
299 mediated (Gell & Coombs type I) or non—IgE-mediated hypersensitivity. This is a simplistic  
300 classification, and one must also consider mixed conditions, where IgE-mediated and non-  
301 IgE-mediated mechanisms participate together. The typical ocular Gell & Coombs type I  
302 hypersensitivity reaction is Seasonal Allergic Conjunctivitis, an immediate (acute) response  
303 produced after the degranulation of histamine from the conjunctival Mast Cells, elicited by

304 the cross-linking of surface IgE bound to allergens. Less frequent, there is Perennial Allergic  
305 Conjunctivitis (PAC), which may be (or not) elicited by IgE-mediated mechanisms but is  
306 maintained as chronic conjunctival inflammation, as described by the Gell & Coombs type II  
307 hypersensitivity reaction, characterized by the infiltration of neutrophils, eosinophils and T  
308 cells responsible for the release of proinflammatory cytokines [70]. Our cohort presented a  
309 relative risk of 2.14 for PAC comparing patients with undetectable and detectable IgE,  
310 suggesting that the IgE is not a predominant participant in this condition.

#### 311 **4.4 Selective IgE deficiency (sIgEd)**

312 Familial sIgEd has not yet had the official status of a Primary Immunodeficiency. Broader  
313 studies are in need to be planned and executed to understand the pathophysiology of  
314 diseases produced or influenced by this condition, especially allergic ones. This particularity  
315 resides in the fact that normal IgE-producers and hyper IgE-producers may present the  
316 same conditions found in patients with sIgEd. Additionally, there is no clear physiopathologic  
317 mechanism able to explain a link between sIgEd and any disease since there is no animal  
318 model to study this condition. Most physicians simply don't pay attention to a result of  
319 undetectable IgE, just considering it a negative result inside the context of the triage of  
320 allergic diseases. As most studies are performed retrospectively, if the physician doesn't  
321 register this detail, the diagnosis must be lost, turning impossible to compare the clinical  
322 characteristics of populations with and without the capacity to produce IgE. At our outpatient  
323 facility, the diagnosis of sIgEd is a concern in the investigation of allergic symptoms, and a  
324 comparative study is possible, based on the two cohort populations. The increase of the  
325 relative risk for AP and PAC, comparing the IgE-producers' cohort with the Non—IgE-  
326 producers' cohort is not quite representative information when considering the low number of  
327 subjects, but represents a clue for more detailed investigations. However, what called our  
328 attention was the disproportional number of patients with UV inside the group with sIgEd.  
329 The reason for that eludes our understanding. Maybe some multiligand superantigen or  
330 superallergen like an IgE-specific Cross-Reactive Carbohydrate Determinant (CCD) or an  
331 IgE-specific "protein Fv", sequestering all the circulating IgE into the assemblage of the  
332 immune complexes [71]? This is just speculation. The appearance of antibodies against  
333 CCD is a phenomenon taken into account to dismiss false-positive reactions inside the  
334 laboratory investigation of IgE-mediated hypersensitivity diseases [72]. The CCDs are  
335 immunogenic glycoproteins that can cross-react with antibodies directed against diverse  
336 allergens. Glycoproteins were already described to produce severe Non—IgE-mediated  
337 delayed anaphylaxis [73]. Would these multiligand superallergens be acquired to blood  
338 circulation through a highly permeable leaky gut [74]? More studies, with a larger number of  
339 patients, must be done to answer these questions.

#### 340 341 **5. CONCLUSION**

342  
343 The comparison of the prevalence of allergic diseases among two cohorts with detectable  
344 and undetectable IgE showed a great tendency for Urticarial Vasculitis and a moderate  
345 tendency to develop Allergic Pharyngitis and Perennial Allergic Conjunctivitis among the  
346 sIgEd population.

#### 347 **Ethical Approval:**

348 As per international standard or university standard written ethical approval has been  
349 collected and preserved by the author(s).

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352 **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

353

354 This work was funded by the Instituto Alergoimuno de Americana.

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357 **COMPETING INTERESTS**

358

359 The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

360

361 **AUTHORS' CONTRIBUTIONS**

362

363 This work was carried out in collaboration among all authors. The author CEO designed the  
364 study and wrote the protocol; the first draft of the manuscript and managed the literature  
365 searches. Authors DGP, APMT, JLSS, RPSL, and ESM extract the studied allergens.  
366 Authors DGP, APMT, JLSS, and RPSL performed laboratory research. Author RAPGS  
367 performed cutaneous tests. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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