

ALLERGY

DOES MY PARTNER CAUSE MY ALLERGY?

17.04.2007

A funny question answered in [Allergy](#).

After adjustment for age, sex, parental predisposition and social status, the risk of hay fever was more than double in subjects who lived together with a partner having the same disease (odds ratio 2.4 [...]). If subjects lived together with an affected partner, the risk of developing the disease increased with the time the partners lived together (1-11 years, OR 1; 12-23 years, OR 1.8; 24-35 years, OR 7.4; 36-54 years, OR 13.7).

Whatever that means – improved recall, shared doctor, non random mating, shared food, transmissible agent in descending order – it has been noticed already 40 years ago by Montgomery Smith and Lloyd Knowler in the Am Rev Resp Dis 1965; 92:16:

The evidence that allergic disease in the spouse increases the risk of its development in the hitherto unaffected partner is strong and is repeated in each separate study in spite of differences in environment. In this rural study women developed the disease with the same frequency as men after marriage to an affected spouse but, apart from this relationship, developed it very seldom. This is in contrast to the