

# Cephalosporin Hypersensitivity: Descriptive Analysis, Cross-reactivity, and Risk Factors

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Title: Cephalosporin hypersensitivity: descriptive analysis, cross-reactivity and risk
 factors

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4 **Running title**: Cephalosporin hypersensitivity in a large series

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44 Abstract

### 45 Background

Cephalosporins, which belong to the beta lactams therapeutic class, are increasingly
used throughout the world. Few large studies on this issue have been conducted and
most of them have been performed as part of penicillin hypersensitivity studies.

### 49 **Objective**

50 We described our 26-year experience exploring cephalosporin drug hypersensitivity,

51 from which we identified epidemiological and cross-reactivity data.

### 52 Methods

We included 476 patients who reported Drug Hypersensitivity Reaction (DHR) to cephalosporin and underwent an allergy workup between January 1992 and July 2018 in the Allergy Unit of the University Hospital of Montpellier (France). According to their structural side chain R1 homology we worked with four classes of cephalosporins. Logistic regression analysis was used to search for risk factors for hypersensitivity to cephalosporin (positive skin test or provocation test results).

### 59 **Results**

Cephalosporin hypersensitivity was proven in 22.3% of the patients referred in our 60 Unit, according to positive ST (51.9%) or DPT to the culprit drug (48.1%). One in five 61 patients were children and cephalosporin hypersensitivity was confirmed in 15% 62 (47.6% of them by means of ST). In the cephalosporin hypersensitive population, 63 initial reactions were mostly immediate (68.9%) and anaphylactic (72.7%). Cross-64 65 reactivity with aminopenicillins was the most frequent pattern of cross-reactivity. In multivariate analysis, immediate reactions (OR=3 (95%CI [1.6-5.5]), p<0.001)), 66 67 anaphylactic shock (OR=6.5 (95%CI [3.3-13.1], p<0.001)) and anaphylaxis (OR=3.1 (95%CI [1.6-6.1], p<0.001)) and multiple reactions to the same or several 68

cephalosporins (OR=2.0 (95% CI [1-3.5], p=0.04)) were statistically associated with confirmed DHR. DPT was generally safe, but elicited anaphylaxis in 20% of patients. Systemic reactions during skin testing occurred in 9.1% of positive patients, almost always related to anaphylactic index reactions. Non-immediate confirmed DHR to cephalosporins were rare and occurred in less than 10% of the positive patients.

### 74 Conclusion

Almost a quarter of the tested patients were confirmed as hypersensitive to cephalosporins; sensitivity of skin testing was 51.9%, thus, half of the positive patients needed a DPT in order to prove the diagnosis.

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### 79 **Highlight box:**

### 80 **1. What is already known about this topic?**

Few large studies on cephalosporin hypersensitivity have been conducted compared to penicillins. There is no global consensus amongst professional societies regarding the necessary reagents, concentrations, or criteria for a positive result for cephalosporin skin tests.

### 85

### 86 2. What does this article add to our knowledge?

In our series, 22.3% of patients with a suspicion of cephalosporin hypersensitivity had their diagnosis confirmed; non-immediate hypersensitivity occurred in less than 10% of the positive patients. Half of the confirmed cases were identified by skin testing (sensitivity 51.9%), which lead to systemic reactions in 5 cases (1%, including 2 anaphylactic shocks). Drug provocation test confirmed the hypersensitivity in the remaining 47%, eliciting anaphylaxis in 2.3% of patients.

### 93 3. How does this study impact current management guidelines?

- A complete drug allergy work-up allows to confirm or rule out cephalosporin
  hypersensitivity. It needs expertise and a controlled environment.
- 96
- 97 Key words: betalactam, cephalosporin, cross-reactivity, drug provocation test,
  98 penicillin, skin-test
- 99

# 100 List of abbrevations:101

- 102 BL: Betalactam
- 103 DAHD: Drug Allergy and Hypersensitivity Database
- 104 DHR: Drug Hypersensitivity Reaction
- 105 DPT: Drug Provocation Test
- 106 ENDA: European Network on Drug Allergy
- 107 ICON: International Consensus On Drug Allergy
- 108 MDM: Minor Determinant Mixture
- 109 PPL: Penicilloyl-Polylysin
- 110 PPV: Positive Predictive Value

## 111 ST: Skin Test

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- 117 118

133 Introduction

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Cephalosporins belong to the beta-lactam therapeutic class and are largely used all
over the world. Cephalosporins are usually known and classified by generations,
corresponding to their chronological availability. There are currently five generations
of cephalosporins.

The beta-lactam ring, common to all beta-lactam antibiotics is unstable and for 139 140 penicillins, its dislocation results in the emergence of several haptens (Penicilloyl-141 Polylysin, PPL and Minor Determinant Mixture, MDM), that have been extensively studied (in vitro and in vivo) in the context of IgE-mediated reactions. Allergenic 142 143 determinants have not been reliably defined for cephalosporins and knowledge on 144 cephalosporin hypersensitivity relies mostly on data emerging from in vivo drug 145 allergy work up, with skin tests (ST) and drug provocation tests (DPT)<sup>1-7</sup>. In 146 cephalosporin allergy, the R1 side chain is more often involved than the R2 side 147 chain. Cross-reactivity between penicillins and cephalosporins has been shown and 148 appears to be mainly related to structural R1 side chains homology, but peculiar 149 profiles have been identified, without clear dissociation between cross-reactivity of 150 co-sensitization<sup>7</sup>.

In a recent European survey<sup>8</sup>, cephalosporins were responsible for 10-40% of all beta-lactam hypersensitivity reactions, the most commonly involved cephalosporins being ceftriaxone, cefaclor, and cefuroxime. Amongst cephalosporins used for antibioprophylaxis, cefazolin is a frequent cause of perioperative anaphylaxis in the U.S. and in Europe<sup>9,10</sup>.

156 Compared to penicillins, fewer large cephalosporin-centered studies have been 157 conducted<sup>1,3-7</sup>. Indeed, many studies involving cephalosporins were primarily addressing penicillin drug hypersensitivity reactions (DHR) and were inquiring about cross reactivity and tolerance between these two BL subgroups<sup>1-3,5-7</sup>. Many publications about cephalosporin hypersensitivity come from Italy<sup>1,3-7,11,12</sup>, the country with the highest consumption of 3rd and 4th generation cephalosporins<sup>13</sup>. The aim of the present study was to analyze two decades of experience with the drug allergy work-up to cephalosporins.

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### 165 Material and methods

166 In this single centre study, we describe cephalosporin DHRs in patients explored 167 between 1996 and 2018 based on our historico-prospective cohort, the Drug Allergy 168 and Hypersensitivity Database (DAHD) in Montpellier, France. Skin tests (ST) were performed according to ENDA recommendations<sup>14</sup>, for penicillin reagents (penicilloy) 169 170 polylysine (PPL), minor determinants mixture (MDM), amoxicillin 20 mg/ml, ampicillin 171 20mg/ml, benzyl benzathine penicillin 10 000 UI/ml) and the culprit cephalosporin 172 (when known) as well as for a panel of other commercially available cephalosporins 173 (2 mg/ml), in order to study cross-reactivity and find a tolerated alternative drug, in 174 case of confirmed DHR. Since 2005, the panel of cephalosporins tested systematically in every patient included: cefazolin, cefuroxime, cefoxitine, ceftriaxone, 175 176 cefotaxime, ceftazidime. Penicillin reagents PPL and MDM were removed (and 177 therefore unavailable further on) from the French market in 2007. Cefatrizine and 178 cefamandole were systematically tested until respectively 2011 and 2016, when they 179 were removed from the market. Other cephalosporins were tested according to the 180 clinical history or therapeutic needs of the patient. Cephalosporins were classified by 181 adjusting published<sup>15</sup>, classifications based on side chain R1 structural homology, 182 i.e., we applied structural homology criteria previously established, and further

183 merged groups with very homologous structure for analysis purposes (e.g., Group 1, 184 2 and 3 by Kahn et al), because certain cephalosporins were poorly represented in 185 our population (Figure 1). Of note, in the text, cross-reactivity in confirmed DHR is expressed as percentage of positive patients amongst those tested for the 186 187 cephalosporins considered as cross-reactive. If ST were negative for the culprit 188 cephalosporin, a drug provocation test (DPT) was performed according to Messaad 189 D et al<sup>16</sup> until 2016 and according to Chiriac AM et al<sup>17</sup> since 2016. In case of positive 190 allergy work-up, alternative BL were tested by means of DPT (to a penicillin, often 191 amoxicillin, and an alternative cephalosporin). Part of the data presented in this 192 study overlap with other publications from our group, directly addressing betalactams or cephalosporins<sup>18,19</sup>. 193

Data were analyzed with R (1.1.456-©2009-2018 Rstudio, Inc). Besides descriptive analysis (chi square, Student, Wilcoxon), univariate and multivariate logistic regression (using variables with P < .0.05 in univariate analysis) were performed to evaluate risk factors after checking validity conditions. A P value of 0.05 or less was chosen to indicate statistical significance.

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### 200 **Results**

Four hundred and seventy-six patients describing immediate (<1h) or delayed ( $\geq$ 1h) reactions with cephalosporins were included. One hundred and six patients (22.3%) had a proven cephalosporin DHR according to positive ST (sensitivity of ST assuming no false positive, 51.9%) or DPT to the culprit drug (48.1%) (**Table 1 and Figure 2**).

206 ST elicited five (9.1%) generalized reactions in the 55 positive ST patients (two 207 anaphylactic shocks, and three cutaneous reactions) (**Table 2**). The chronology of these reactions matched that of the corresponding index reaction (four immediate, all
anaphylaxis with or without shock; one delayed cutaneous reaction). Out of 421
patients whose ST were negative, 12% (N=51) were found positive after DPT (Figure
2). During DPT, ten reactions (2.3% of the total cohort and 19.6% of the positive
DPT) were anaphylactic (four with and six w/o shock, all occurring in patients with
severe index reaction, i.e., either anaphylaxis in nine or isolated bronchospasm in
one patient) and the other were cutaneous.

Within the whole tested cohort, one in five patients were children in whom cephalosporin hypersensitivity was confirmed in 14.3% (47.6% of them by means of ST) (**Figure E1**). In the cephalosporin hypersensitive population, initial reactions were mostly immediate (68.9%) and anaphylactic (72.7%) (**Table 3**).

We found a good match between the chronology of the index reaction and that of the 219 220 reaction elicited during the allergy work-up (Table 4). Nine patients (8.5% of the 221 positive group) presented delayed non-severe cutaneous reactions (>2h) during our 222 tests (ST, one or DPT, eight). Of those patients, one had immediate and eight 223 delayed index reactions. In accordance with the ICON definition<sup>20</sup> of the possible overlap of immediate and non-immediate reactions in the interval 1-6h, < 2h is 224 225 considered here as immediate reaction. Indeed, after reviewing the files of the 226 patients reacting by DPT within 2h after the last dose, almost all of them (33/34 227 patients) were considered as immediate reactions, i.e., rapidly resolving urticaria.

Based on skin testing results, unsurprisingly, Class 2 (aminocephalosporins) was the one cross-reacting the most with penicillin reagents (54%) and with aminopenicillins in our positive cohort, followed by Class 1, compared to only 3.8% (one patient) for cefazolin (**Table 5**).

Within the group of patients with confirmed DHR, we observed that a history of 232 anaphylaxis was associated (p<0.001) with positive ST. When adjusted on other 233 234 variables, immediate reactions (OR=3 (95%CI [1.6-5.5]), p<0.001)), anaphylaxis with (OR=6.5 (95%CI [3.3-13.1], p<0.001)) or without shock (OR=3.1 (95%CI [1.6-6.1], 235 236 p<0.001)) and multiple reactions to the same or several cephalosporins (OR=2.0 (95%CI [1-3.5], p=0.04)) were statistically associated with confirmed DHR. Cefazolin 237 was more often associated to confirmed DHR, but this association did not persist, in 238 239 multivariate analysis. Cutaneous (p<0.001) and non-immediate reactions (p<0.001) and those of unknown chronology of the index reaction (p<0.001) were statistically 240 241 correlated with a negative diagnosis.

242

### 243 Discussion

Cephalosporin hypersensitivity was proven in 22.3% of the patients referred in our Unit in our 26-year experience, equally by ST and DPT. These numbers are similar to others on the same topic<sup>1-3</sup>.

247 As data on primary cephalosporin allergy is more limited than that on penicillin allergy, with differences between current recommendations from professional 248 societies<sup>21</sup> (e.g., there is no global consensus regarding the necessary reagents, 249 250 concentrations, or criteria for a positive test result for betalactam ST), the question 251 might be raised about the value of positive ST to confirm allergy. All our patients were tested at recommended concentrations for cephalosporins by the ENDA group 252 253 (2 mg/ml), which have now been recommended for more than two decades. 254 Moreover, in a recent narrative literature review by our group, the positive predictive value (PPV) of ST to betalactams was 100% for a clinical history of anaphylaxis and 255 256 > 80% for immediate non-anaphylactic reactions and for delayed reactions. In this review<sup>21</sup>, all ten patients with positive ST for cephalosporins reacted when provoked for these cephalosporins, yielding a PPV of 100%. Considering these facts, would have little proof to argue that ST are false positive and thus the calculated sensitivity of ST in our series is 51.9%.

261 Not surprisingly, as for penicillins, immediate reactions, multiple reactions and anaphylaxis were risk factors for confirmed DHR. In half of the confirmed cases, DPT 262 was necessary to confirm the diagnosis. We used recommended concentrations for 263 264 ST, but recently, it has been suggested (and endorsed by the ENDA group in the upcoming update on BL DHR paper) that concentrations should be increased to 20 265 266 mg/ml instead of 2 mg/ml, to increase sensitivity of ST and avoid unnecessary DPT. Allergy work-up was globally safe, but anaphylaxis was elicited in 2.3% of DPT and 267 1% of all performed ST (9.1% of positive ST). With these considerations in mind (i.e., 268 269 change to a higher recommended concentration for ST and risk of systemic reactions 270 during ST), cautionary incremental concentrations should be used when testing 271 patients with severe index reactions, from as early as ST exposure.

272 In our analysis, the study of cross-reactivity in confirmed DHR was mainly done by ST, since only one or two alternative BL (a penicillin and a cephalosporin) were 273 systematically tested by DPT, unlike other studies<sup>2-3,5-7</sup> (**Table E1**). Therefore, we 274 275 might have underestimated the rate of cross-reactivity. Also, throughout the years, 276 the panel of tested cephalosporins slightly changed, according to removal of some cephalosporins from the French market and the increased utilization of others. Few 277 studies mainly carried out by Romano A et al<sup>3-7</sup> and Antunez<sup>2</sup>, have evaluated 278 279 subjects with cephalosporin hypersensitivity and have assessed cross-reactivity with 280 penicillins, on the basis on ST, serum specific IgE assays and DPT. They found a 281 rate of cross-reactivity ranging from 13.3% to 40.1% in cephalosporin hypersensitive

patients (for the most majority of them involving ceftriaxone, ceftazidime, cefaclor and 282 cefazolin) and penicillin reagents, including PPL, MDM, benzylpenicillin, amoxicillin 283 284 and ampicillin. Moreover, they evaluated systematically the cross-reactivity with monobactams or carbapenems, which was not analyzed in our study. Our rate of 285 286 cross-reactivity to penicillins might be higher for several reasons: (i) some of the previous publications<sup>2</sup> studied less patients; (ii) we considered patients positive on 287 the basis of ST or DPT to cephalosporins, but also based on positive ST (prick test or 288 289 intradermal test) to aminopenicillins w/o confirmatory DPT for the culprit 290 aminocephalosporin when the skin prick test to this aminocephalosporin (some do 291 not exist in sterile form to allow intradermal test performance) was negative; (iii) we 292 studied cross-reactivity by class of cephalosporin, precisely due to more structural 293 similarities with penicillins for some cephalosporins as compared to others.

We confirm the rarity of the delayed reactions to cephalosporins, as described by other groups<sup>4</sup>.

296

### 297 Conclusion

In conclusion, our study adds-up solid data to the existing knowledge on cephalosporin DHR, proving the utility of the allergy work-up to delabel most patients with a suspicion of DHR to cephalosporins. Performed in a step-wise manner and tailored to the severity of the clinical reaction, the allergy work-up is generally safe and it needs expertise as well as a controlled environment.

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This study was approved by the Institutional Review Board with the accreditation number: IRB-MTP-2020-01-202000333.

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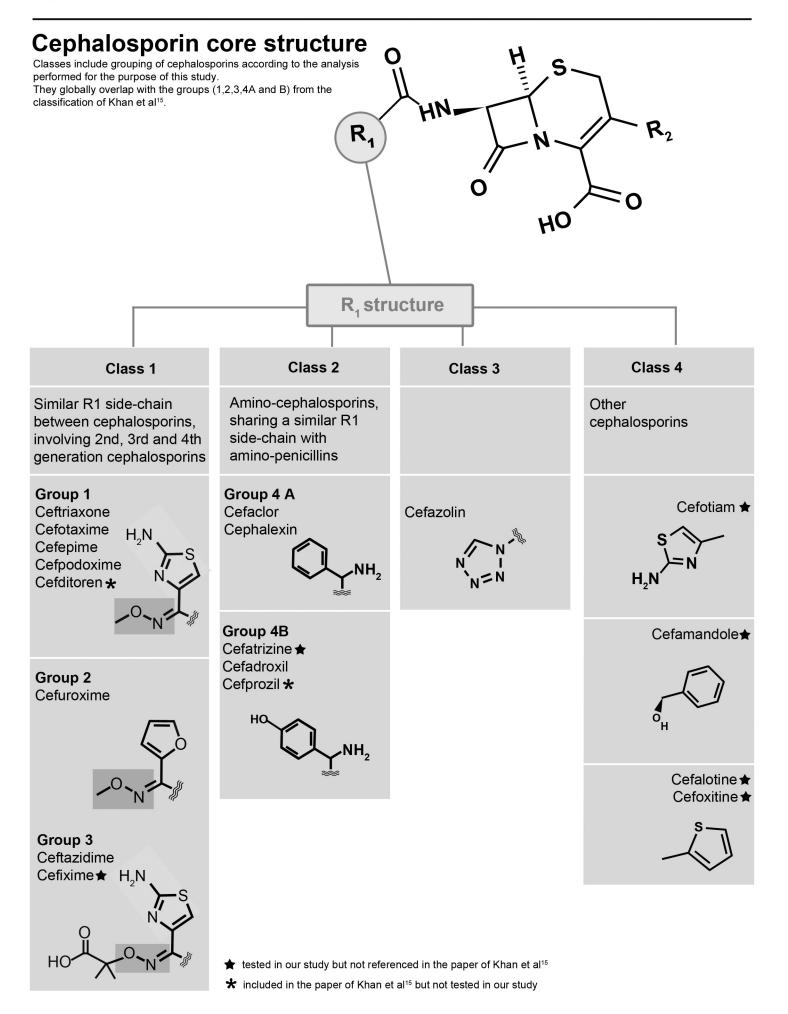
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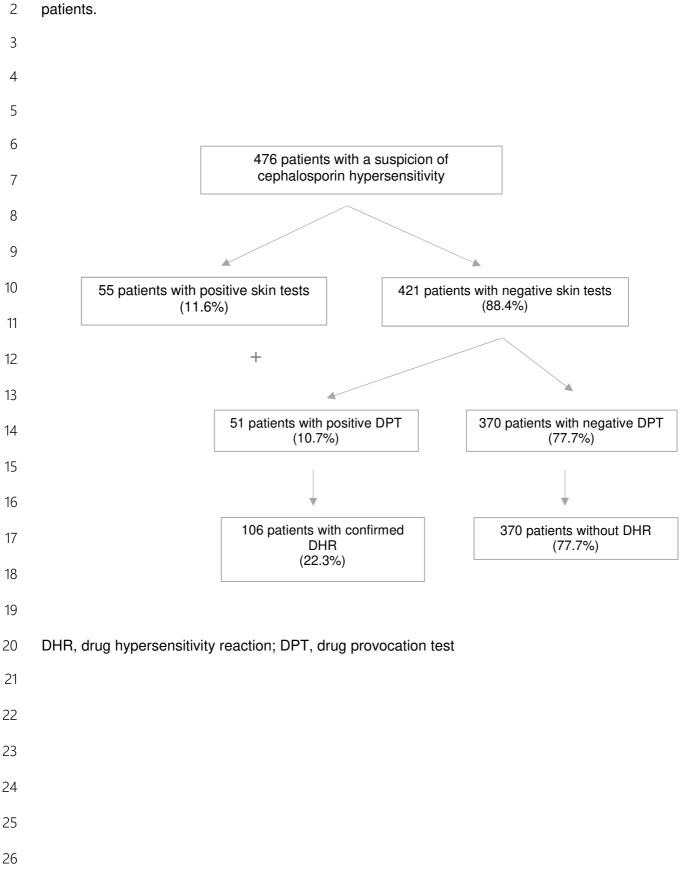
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## 391 Legend list :

- 392 Figure 1: Classification of cephalosporins used in the article adapted from Khan et al<sup>15</sup>
- 393
- 394 Figure 2 : Flow chart of the study. The % are expressed as % of the total of the 476 tested
- 395 patients (DHR, drug hypersensitivity reaction; DPT, drug provocation test).

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1 Figure 2: Flow chart of the study. The % are expressed as % from the total of 476 tested

### Table 1 : Tests' characteristics

	Overall (n)	Proportion(%)
Tests' characteristics		
RESULTS (n=476)		
Negative	370	77.7
Positive	106	22.3
ST with culprit cephalosporin	41	38,6
ST with penicillin with identical side chain*	14	13.2
DPT with culprit cephalosporin	51	48.1

\* Amoxicillin, Ampicillin; ST : Skin test; DPT : Drug Provocation Test

DAHD N° patient	Gende r	Asthma	Atopy	Chronology of index reaction	Culprit cephalosporin	Symptoms of index reaction	Age (yrs)	Multiple reactions to cephalosporins	Name of ST eliciting the reaction	Chronology of positive ST	Delay reaction- tests (Mo)	Reaction during ST
779	F	No	No	< 1h	CEFOTAXIME	Anaphylactic shock	58	Yes	Cefradine Cefalotine Ceftriaxone Cefuroxime Cefotaxime MDM PPL Ax Ap Pg	<1h	2.5	Angioedema, bronchospasm, hypotension
1506	F	No	Yes	< 1h	CEFATRIZINE	Anaphylaxis	32	Yes	Ax PPL MDM	<1h	25.5	Collapse, hypotension, loss of consciousness
4753	М	No	Yes	6h - 24h	CEFADROXIL	Urticaria	16	Yes	Ax Ap	6h-24h	186	Exanthema
23	F	No	No	< 1h	CEFTRIAXONE	Anaphylaxis	51	No	Ceftriaxone Cefotaxime	<1h	4	Exanthema, pruritus, malaise
4652	F	No	No	< 1h	CEFTRIAXONE	Anaphylactic shock	57	No	Ceftriaxone	<1h	22.5	Pruritus

**Table 2.** Detail of patients with systemic reactions during skin tests.

C%, concentration; ST, Skin Test; PT : Prick Test, IDR : IntraDermoReaction, F, female; M, male; Mo, months; Yrs, years MDM, Minor Determinant Mixture; PPL, Penicilloyl-Polylysin; Ax, Amoxicillin; Ap, Ampicillin, Pg, Penicillin G

Table 3: Characteristics of the studied cohort with suspected cephalosporin hypersensitivity

Socio demographic characteristics           Sex           Male         166           Female         310           Adult/child status at the index reaction         330           Adult         330           Child         146           Patient's background         146           Asthma         74           No         402           Atopy         272           No         193           Unknown         11           Previous reactions with a cephalosporin         Yes           Yes         120           No         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins show at a cephalosporins of a several reactions with the same cephalosporins         350           Several reactions with different cephalosporins         40           Several reactions with different cephalosporins         40           Several reactions with different cephalosporins         85           Unknown         1           Chincal history         1           Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85           Other         308           Chronology of the index reaction         40           Vinnown         49           Culprit drug         <	ensitive patients (n(%)) (n <sub>tot</sub> = 106)
Male         166           Female         310           Adult/child status at the index reaction         330           Adult         330           Child         146           Patient's background         146           Patient's background         402           Astima         74           No         402           Atopy         272           No         193           Unknown         193           Unknown         120           No         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins         40           Several reactions with the same cephalosporin         40           Several reactions with the same cephalosporin         40           Several reactions with the same cephalosporin         40           Unknown         1           Chinical history         1           Inmediate (<1h)         83           Non immediate (<1h)         267           Unknown         49           Chronology of the index reaction         160           Non immediate (<1h)         267           Unknown	
Adult         330           Child         146           Patient's background         146           Asthma         74           No         402           Atopy         402           Atopy         193           Ves         193           Unknown         11           Previous reactions with a cephalosporin         120           No         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins)         356           Cone reaction         350           > 2 or more reactions with the same cephalosporin         40           Several reactions with different cephalosporins         85           Unknown         1           Clinical history         1           Clinical history         308           Chronology of the index reaction         83           Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 308           Chronology of the index reaction         267           Unknown         49           Culprit drug         267           By generation         267           Unknown         267	34(32) 72(68)
Asthma         74           Yes         74           No         402           Atopy         272           No         193           Unknown         193           Unknown         11           Previous reactions with a cephalosporin         120           No         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins)         350           One reaction         350           > 2 or more reactions with different cephalosporins         40           Several reactions with different cephalosporins         1           Clinical history         1           Anaphylactic shock         83           Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 308           Chronology of the index reaction         49           Culprit drug         1           By generation         1           C1G         194           C2G         73           C3G         206	85(80.2) 21(19.8)
Asthma         74           Yes         74           No         402           Atopy         272           No         193           Unknown         193           Unknown         11           Previous reactions with a cephalosporin         120           No         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins)         350           One reaction         350           > 2 or more reactions with different cephalosporins         40           Several reactions with different cephalosporins         1           Clinical history         1           Anaphylactic shock         83           Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85           Other         308           Chronology of the index reaction         49           Culprit drug         1           By generation         1           C1G         194           C2G         73           C3G         206	
No         402           Atopy	
Yes         272           No         193           Unknown         11           Previous reactions with a cephalosporin         120           No         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins)         356           Cone reaction         350           > 2 or more reactions with the same cephalosporin         40           Several reactions with different cephalosporins         85           Unknown         1           Clinical history         1           Anaphylactic shock         83           Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85           Other*         308           Chronology of the index reaction         49           Culprit drug         49           By generation         1           C1G         194           C2G         73           C3G         206	18(17) 88(83)
No         193           Unknown         11           Previous reactions with a cephalosporin         120           Yes         120           No         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins)         350           One reaction         350           Several reactions with the same cephalosporin         40           Several reactions with different cephalosporins         85           Unknown         1           Clinical history         1           Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85           Other*         308           Chronology of the index reaction         160           No mimediate (>1h)         160           Non immediate (>1h)         160           Non immediate (>1h)         149           Culprit drug         49           Ely generation         73           C1G         194           C2G         73           C3G         206	45(40.0)
Unknown11Previous reactions with a cephalosporin11Yes120No356Reaction's characteristics (with one or several356cephalosporins)0ne reactionOne reaction350> 2 or more reactions with the same cephalosporins40Several reactions with different cephalosporins85Unknown1Clinical history308Clinical history308Chronology of the index reaction160Non immediate (<1h)	45(43.3) 59(56.7)
Previous reactions with a cephalosporin120Yes120No356Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins)One reaction350> 2 or more reactions with the same cephalosporin40Several reactions with different cephalosporins85Unknown1Clinical historyAnaphylactic shock83Anaphylaxis§85Other*308Chronology of the index reactionImmediate (<1h)	0(0)
Yes         120           No         356           Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins)         350           cephalosporins)         350           One reaction         350           > 2 or more reactions with the same cephalosporin         40           Several reactions with the same cephalosporins         85           Unknown         1           Clinical history         1           Anaphylactic shock         83           Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85           Other*         308           Chronology of the index reaction         160           Non immediate (<1h)	0(0)
No356Reaction's characteristics (with one or several cephalosporins)350One reaction350> 2 or more reactions with the same cephalosporin40Several reactions with different cephalosporins85Unknown1Clinical history30Anaphylactic shock83Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85Other*308Chronology of the index reaction160Non immediate (<1h)	32(30.2)
cephalosporins)350One reaction350> 2 or more reactions with the same cephalosporin40Several reactions with different cephalosporins85Unknown1Clinical historyAnaphylactic shock83Anaphylaxis§85Other*308Chronology of the index reactionImmediate (<1h)	74(69.8)
<ul> <li>&gt; 2 or more reactions with the same cephalosporin</li> <li>Several reactions with different cephalosporins</li> <li>Unknown</li> <li>1</li> <li>Clinical history</li> <li>Anaphylactic shock</li> <li>Anaphylaxis<sup>§</sup></li> <li>Other*</li> <li>308</li> <li>Chronology of the index reaction</li> <li>Immediate (&lt;1h)</li> <li>Non immediate (&gt;1h)</li> <li>Non immediate (&gt;1h)</li> <li>267</li> <li>Unknown</li> <li>49</li> <li>Culprit drug</li> <li>By generation</li> <li>C1G</li> <li>C2G</li> <li>C3G</li> <li>206</li> </ul>	
Several reactions with different cephalosporins85Unknown1Clinical history1Anaphylactic shock83Anaphylaxis§85Other*308Chronology of the index reaction160Immediate (<1h)	72(67.9)
Unknown         1           Clinical history            Anaphylactic shock         83           Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85           Other*         308           Chronology of the index reaction         160           Immediate (<1h)	25(23.6)
Anaphylactic shock       83         Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85         Other*       308         Chronology of the index reaction       160         Immediate (<1h)	8(7.5) 1(1)
Anaphylactic shock       83         Anaphylaxis <sup>§</sup> 85         Other*       308         Chronology of the index reaction       160         Immediate (<1h)	
Other*         308           Chronology of the index reaction         160           Immediate (<1h)	50(47.2)
Chronology of the index reaction           Immediate (<1h)	27(25.5)
Immediate (<1h)	29(27.3)
Non immediate (>1h)         267           Unknown         49           Culprit drug         104           By generation         194           C2G         73           C3G         206	
Culprit drug By generation C1G 194 C2G 73 C3G 206	73(68.9) 31(29.2) 2(1.9)
By generation         194           C1G         194           C2G         73           C3G         206	=(,
C1G 194 C2G 73 C3G 206	
	61(57.5) 18(17) 27(25.5) 0(0)
By group	- ( - /
Class 1 256 Class 2 124 Class 3 66 Class 4 30	40(37.3) 35(33) 26(24.5) 5(4.7)

<sup>§</sup>Isolated low respiratory signs and symptoms (i.e., chest tightness, bronchospasm), described by 85 patients were grouped with anaphylaxis following descriptive analysis \*Other includes: urticaria, angioedema, maculo-papular exanthema, severe cutaneous adverse reactions (1 DRESS,1 Stevens-Johnson Syndrome), unknown index reaction. The choice to regroup these entities was decided following descriptive analysis.

Groups considering generation:

C1G : CEFAZOLINE, CEFATRIZINE, CEFACLOR,CEFADROXIL C2G : CEFUROXIME, CEFAMANDOLE C3G : CEFTRIAXONE, CEFOTAXIME, CEFTAZIDIME, CEFPODOXIME, CEFIXIME, CEFOTIAM,CEFEPIME

Groups considering structural homology:

Class 1 = CEFTRIAXONE, CEFOTAXIME, CEFEPIME, CEFPODOXIME, CEFTAZIDIME, CEFIXIME, CEFUROXIME Class 2 = CEFACLOR, CEFALEXINE, CEFADROXIL, CEFATRIZINE Class 3 = CEFAZOLINE Class 4 = CEFALOTINE, CEFOXITINE, CEFOTIAM, CEFAMANDOLE

Table 4: Crossmatch table between the chronology of the index reaction and that of positive

tests

Chronology when positive tests (DPT/ST) ¶				n
Chronology of the		<2h (%)	>2h (%)	106
Chronology of the index reaction <sup>*</sup>	<1h (%)	60(83)	13(17)	73
	>1h (%)	24(73)	9(27)	33

### DPT, Drug Provocation Test; ST, Skin Test

\* 2 patients with unknown chronology were included in chronology of the index reaction > 1h ¶ In accordance with the ICON definition of the possible overlap of immediate and non-immediate reactions in the interval 1-6h, and after careful review of patient charts and the precise semiology and chronology of the reaction elicited by the allergy work-up, < 2h is considered here as immediate reaction.

### Table 5: Cross-reactivity with penicillins in cephalosporin hypersensitive patients

Groups	% of cross-reactivity (penicillin reagents)	% of cross-reactivity (ampicillin and/or amoxicillin only)
Class 1	20	10
Class 2	52	37.1
Class 3	0	0
Class 4	3.8	0

Groups considering structural homology:

Class 1 = CEFTRIAXONE, CEFOTAXIME, CEFEPIME, CEFPODOXIME, CEFTAZIDIME, CEFIXIME, CEFUROXIME Class 2 = CEFACLOR, CEFALEXINE, CEFADROXIL, CEFATRIZINE

Class 3 = CEFAZOLINE

Class 4 = CEFALOTINE, CEFOXITINE, CEFOTIAM, CEFAMANDOLE