



Allergy Desensitization Comparison

	ALLERGY DROPS	ALLERGY SHOTS
Method of administration	Drops under the tongue	Shots in the arm
Possible adverse reactions	Rare itching/tingling in mouth, temporary worsening of allergy symptoms. Extremely rare: hives or anaphylaxis	Swelling, redness, tenderness and/or itching at the injection site, worsening of allergic symptoms, wheezing, hives, life threatening anaphylaxis.
Number of provider visits	4 total	1-2 times every week
Allergy Testing required	Yes	Yes
Who should NOT use	Severe immunodeficiency	Taking beta-blockers, history of anaphylaxis, young children, infants, severe asthmatics, severe immunodeficiency
Duration of treatment	3 years	3-5 years
Treatment frequency/location	Daily drops under the tongue at home	Shots 1-2 times per week at the doctor's office
FDA approved	Antigens: Yes Method: Off-label	Serum: Yes Method: Yes
Insurance coverage for allergy testing	Yes, but call insurance company for your specific benefits. Allergy testing code is 95004	Yes, but call insurance company for your specific benefits. Allergy testing code is 95004
Insurance coverage for serum	No, but comparatively low out-of-pocket cost	Usually yes, but call insurance company for your specific benefits
Treatment time	2 minutes daily (in the comfort of your home)	Hours weekly (travel time, waiting room, waiting after each shot)
Monthly cost average	\$80.00	Co-pay average: \$130.00 Hours of lost work-??? Gas money-???
Yearly cost average	\$900	\$1560.00