Subgroups and Intervention Effects in Infants at Risk for Peanut Allergy: A Re-analysis of Publicly Available Clinical Trial Data

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5/16/2024

## Outline

- Food allergy and the LEAP trial
- Secondary analysis of the LEAP trial
  - Baseline model with limit of detection (LOD) adjustment
  - Sensitivity analysis: Baseline model without LOD adjustment
  - Modeling based on baseline and 12-month data
  - Summary





Prevalence and Severity of Food Allergies Among US Adults. JMAN Retwork Open 2019 The Public Health Impact of Parent-Reported Childmood Food Allergies in the United States. Periatrics 2018 Food Allergy in the United States: Recent Trends and Costs – An Analysis of Private Claims Data. FARE Health White Paper, November 2017.

- ~3 million patients visit the emergency room each year in the US because of their food allergy
- Around 2% of US children have a peanut allergy







### Diagnosis and management of IgE-mediated food allergy

- Skin prick test (SPT) wheal diameter
- Serum food-specific IgE levels
- Specific IgE against individual allergens (components)

- Management options:
  - Avoidance
  - Oral immunotherapy

### What about prevention?



### Assessment of risk for food allergy development in infancy



Standard Risk

Image Credit: Fleischer et al. A Consensus Approach to the Primary Prevention of Food Allergy Through Nutrition: Guidance from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; and the Canadian Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology. *J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract.* 2020; 9(1): 22-43. Adapted from AAAAI Teaching Slides.



### Why is severe eczema a risk factor?



Image Credit: Lack, G. Epidemiologic risks for food allergy. *J Allergy Clin Immunol*. 2008; 121(6): 1331-1336. Adapted from AAAAI Teaching Slides.



### The LEAP (Learning Early About Peanut allergy) study

Du Toit *et al.*, N Engl J Med 2015; 372:803-813

- 640 children; between 4 and 11 months of age
- At high risk for peanut allergy (existing egg allergy and/or severe eczema)
- Peanut skin prick test wheal <=4 mm</li>
- Two groups:
  - <u>Consumption</u>: Consumed a peanut containing snack (equivalent to 6 grams of peanut protein each week)
  - <u>Avoidance</u>: Did not ingest peanut-containing foods
- Primary outcome: Peanut allergy status at 60 months of age



### Significant reduction in peanut allergy prevalence with early introduction



Among high-risk infants, regular peanut consumption starting in the first 11 months of life results in a marked reduction in the prevalence of peanut allergy at 5 years of age.



Du Toit et al., N Engl J Med 2015; 372:803-813

# Studies support early introduction of egg and peanut as a means of prevention

### **Key Points**

**Question** Does the timing of allergenic food introduction to infants affect their risk of developing allergic or autoimmune disease?

**Findings** There was moderate-certainty evidence that early introduction of egg (from 4-6 months) or peanut (from 4-11 months) was associated with reduced risk of egg or peanut allergy, respectively. There was low- to very low-certainty evidence that early fish introduction was associated with reduced allergic sensitization and rhinitis and high-certainty evidence that timing of gluten introduction was not associated with risk of celiac disease.

**Meaning** Early introduction of egg or peanut to infants was associated with a reduced risk of egg or peanut allergy.

lerodiakonou, D. *et al.* Timing of Allergenic Food Introduction to the Infant Diet and Risk of Allergic or Autoimmune Disease A Systematic Reivew and Meta-analysis. *JAMA*. 2016; 316(11): 1181-1192.





## Hesitancy of early peanut introduction by caregivers

- Guidance from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; American College of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology; and the Canadian Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology:
  - Introduce peanut-containing products to all infants, irrespective of their relative risk of developing peanut allergy, starting around 6 months of life, though not before 4 months of life.
- NIAID Addendum Guidelines: Infants with severe eczema or egg allergy should introduce by 4-6 months of age with testing prior; Infants with mild to moderate eczema should introduce around 6 months of age; All other infants can introduce peanut foods freely.
- The acceptability of early peanut introduction remains unclear on the part of caregivers.
- In a survey, only 31% of caregivers showed willingness to introduce peanut before or at 6 months of age, with 40% of caregivers showing willingness to introduce peanut after 11 months of age.
- The Enquiring About Tolerance (EAT) trial had a below 50% adherence rate to the protocol for highdose consumption due to feeding difficulties and symptoms with food consumption.

Fleischer et al., J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract. 2020; 9(1): 22-43TeAbrams et al., J Allergy Clin Immunol Pract, 2022; 10(1):71-77FGreenhawt et al., Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol, 2018; 120(6):620-625

Togias *et al., J Pediatr Nurs*. 2017; 32:91-98 Perkin *et al., J Allergy Clin Immunol*, 2019; 144(6):1595-1605





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### Secondary analysis of data from LEAP – objectives

 Determine risk subgroups within infants at high risk for peanut allergy according to their predicted probability of developing peanut allergy if avoiding peanut.



### **Defining the window of opportunity and target** populations to prevent peanut allergy



Graham Roberts, DM,³ Henry T. Bahnson, MPH,⁵ George Du Toit, MB, BCh,ˁ Colin O′Rourke, MS,⁵							
Michelle L. Sever, PhD, <sup>d</sup> Erica Brittain, PhD, <sup>e</sup>	Marshall Plaut, N	/ID, <sup>e</sup> and Gideon La	ck, MB, BCh, FRCPCH°	Southampton,			
Isle of Wight, and London, United Kingdom; Seattle	Isle of Wight, and London, United Kingdom; Seattle, Wash; Wilmington and Durham, NC; and Bethesda, Md						
	Received: 17 March 2022	Revised: 4 November 2022	Accepted: 7 November 2022				

DOI: 10.1111/all.15597

...and more

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Early introduction of peanut reduces peanut allergy across risk groups in pooled and causal inference analyses

Kirsty Logan<sup>1</sup> | Henry T. Bahnson<sup>2</sup> | Alyssa Ylescupidez<sup>2</sup> | Kirsten Beyer<sup>3</sup> | Johanna Bellach<sup>3</sup> | Dianne E. Campbell<sup>4</sup> | Joanna Craven<sup>1</sup> | George Du Toit<sup>1</sup> E. N. Clare Mills<sup>5</sup> | Michael R. Perkin<sup>6</sup> | Graham Roberts<sup>7</sup> | Ronald van Ree<sup>8</sup> | Gideon Lack<sup>1</sup>

### Secondary analysis of data from LEAP – objectives

• Determine risk subgroups within infants at high risk for peanut allergy according to their predicted probability of developing peanut allergy if avoiding peanut.

• Estimate the intervention effect of early introduction of peanut for these risk subgroups.





### ORIGINAL ARTICLE 🔂 Open Access 💿 🛈

# Risk subgroups and intervention effects among infants at high risk for peanut allergy: A model for clinical decision making

Yuxiang Li, Ashley Devonshire, Bin Huang, Sandra Andorf 🔀

First published: 19 January 2024 | https://doi.org/10.1111/cea.14452



**Yuxiang Li** Biostatistics and Epidemiology



**Bin Huang** Biostatistics and Epidemiology



Ashley Devonshire Allergy and Immunology



## LEAP individual participant data availability



SDY660 - LEAP ITN032AD: Induction of Tolerance through Early Introduction of Peanut in High-Risk Children, LEAP-On ITN049AD: The Persistence of Oral Tolerance Induction to Peanut and Its Immunological Basis

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emographics	Lab	Tests	Mechan	istic Assays	Study Files			
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Accession		SDY66	SDY660					
Title		LEAP ITN032AD: Induction of Tolerance through Early Introduction of Peanut in High-Risk Children, LEAP-On ITN049AD: The Persistence of Oral Tolerance Induction to Peanut and Its Immunological Basis						
DOI		10.214	30/M3SF	РАСКАЗ				
Brief Descriptior	)	ITN032AD: This study will evaluate whether early exposure to peanuts promotes tolerance and provides protection from developing peanut allergy in children who are allergic to eggs or who have severe eczema. ITN049AD: This study will evaluate persistent tolerance to peanut by assessing the effect of 12 months of cessation of peanut consumption after 5 years of consumption versus continued avoidance of peanut.						
Research		Atopy	Allergy					



INNOVATION · COLLABORATION A clinical research consortium funded by NIAID

ITN032AD



LEAP: INDUCTION OF TOLERANCE THROUGH EARLY INTRODUCTION OF PEANUT IN HIGH-RISK CHILDREN

This is a randomized controlled trial in which children at high risk for peanut allergy (as demonstrated by eczema, egg allergy, or both) are enrolled. Participants are stratified based on skin prick test (SPT) results for peanut into those with a wheal diameter of 0 mm (SPT-negative stratum), and those with a wheal diameter of 1, 2, 3, or 4 mm (SPT-positive). Participants in each stratum are randomly assigned to receive a peanut-containing snack or to avoid peanut. The group assigned to receive a peanut-containing snack will eat at least 2 g of peanut protein three times per week until 60 months of age. The prevalence of peanut allergy at that time is compared between the peanut consumption and the avoidance groups.

#### VIEW STUDY LEAP > VIEW STUDY AT CLINICALTRIALS.GOV >

### MANUSCRIPTS AND ABSTRACTS

J Allergy Clin Immunol 2019 Association of Staphylococcus aureus colonization with food allergy occurs independently of eczema severity J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2019 May 29. pii: S0091-6749(19)30611-6 Tsilochristou O, George du Toit, Peter H. Sayre, Graham Roberts, Kaitie Lawson, Michelle L. Sever, Henry T. Bahnson, Suzana Radulovic, Monica Basting, Marshall Plaut, Gideon Lack PUBMED > Journal of Allergy and Clinical Immunology 2019 The MALT1 locus and peanut avoidance in the risk for peanut allergy. J Allergy Clin Immunol. 2019 Jun;143(6):2326-2329 Alexandra Winters, Henry T. Bahnson, Ingo Ruczinski, Meher P. Boorgula, Claire Malley, MS, Ali R. Keramati, MD, Sameer

Alexandra Winters, Henry T. Bahnson, Ingo Ruczinski,, Meher P. Boorguia, Claire Malley, MS, Ali R. Keramati, MD, Sameer Chavan,, David Larson, Karen Cerosaletti, Peter H. Sayre, Marshall Plaut, George Du Toit, Gideon Lack, Kathleen C. Barnes, Gerald T. Nepom, Rasika A. Mathias, for the Immune Tolerance Network LEAP Study Team. PUBMED

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### www.immport.org

### Step 0: Download raw data of the LEAP trial from ITN TrialShare (ID: ITN032AD)





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### Step 1: Predict risk subgroups in infants at high risk of peanut allergy



risk subgroup using stabilized inverse probability weighting (sIPW). Intervention arm i.e., peanut consumption arm. n=307 participants

### Introduction to Decision Trees



Main advantages:

- Interpretable
- Can handle both numeric and categorical data

Main disadvantage:

• Prone to overfitting

One approach to reduce the likelihood of overfitting is pruning the tree. Reducing the depth of the tree (more on this later).



## Introduction to Random Forest

- An ensemble of individual decision trees
- A low correlation between trees is achieved during training by:
  - 1.Bagging (Bootstrap Aggregation): For each individual tree, samples from the dataset are randomly selected with replacement
  - 2.Feature Randomness: For each node split, only a random subset of features/variables is considered
- Main advantages:
  - Reduced risk of overfitting
  - Easy to determine variable importance
- Main disadvantage:
  - Not easily interpretable (compared to a single tree)



Tally: Six 1s and Three 0s **Prediction: 1** 



Graphs from: https://towardsdatascience.com/understanding-random-forest-58381e0602d2

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### Demographics and clinical characteristics of the avoidance arm

Variable	Non-allergic	Allergic	<b>P</b> *	Overall
Ν	260	54		314
Sex, male, no. (%)	164 (63.1)	39 (72.2)	0.262	203 (64.6)
Race, no. (%)			0.002	
White	207 (79.6)	31 (57.4)		238 (75.8)
Asian	6 (2.3)	5 (9.3)		11 (3.5)
Black	20 (7.7)	6 (11.1)		26 (8.3)
Mixed	27 (10.4)	12 (22.2)		39 (12.4)
Age, month (median [IQR])	7.80 [6.47, 9.11]	7.84 [5.96, 8.85]	0.49	7.82 [6.42, 9.10]
SPT-positive Stratum, no. (%)	33 (12.7)	18 (33.3)	<0.001	51 (16.2)
Eczema, no. (%)	225 (86.5)	52 (96.3)	0.073	277 (88.2)
Egg allergy, no. (%)	160 (61.5)	43 (79.6)	0.018	203 (64.6)
peanut slgE at baseline, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.02 [0.00, 0.13]	0.43 [0.08, 2.35]	<0.001	0.03 [0.00, 0.31]
Ara h 1 at baseline, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.03 [0.00, 0.13]	<0.001	0.00 [0.00, 0.02]
Ara h 2 baseline, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.04]	0.04 [0.03, 0.12]	<0.001	0.00 [0.00, 0.04]
Ara h 3 at baseline, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.02]	0.02 [0.00, 0.08]	<0.001	0.00 [0.00, 0.02]
Ara h 8 at baseline, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.012	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]
Ara h 9 at baseline, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.01	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]
peanut slgG4 at baseline, μg/L (median [IQR])	70.00 [70.00, 70.00]	70.00 [70.00, 70.00]	0.005	70.00 [70.00, 70.00]
Peanut wheal at baseline mm (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 2.00]	<0.001	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]





# Variables presented to the random forest for variable selection

Demographic variables	Age, sex, race
Blood	Peanut sIgE, peanut specific IgG <sub>4</sub> ,
biomarkers	sIgE to Ara h 1, Ara h 2, Ara h 3, Ara h 8, and Ara h 9
Clinical	Severe eczema status, egg allergy status,
variables	skin prick test (SPT) stratum



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### Baseline model with Limit Of Detection (LOD) adjustment

- In clinical practice, laboratories usually measure slgE to peanut and peanut components with LOD of <0.09 kU/L.</li>
- For the clinical trial, lower levels were measured.
- To create a model considering the LOD used in clinical practice, we replaced all values <0.09 kU/L for peanut sIgE and IgE to the components with 0.045 kU/L.



### Random forest: Important variables





### CART model



Developed on case-weighted data because of the class imbalance:

- Only about 17% (54/314) of the participants were determined allergic at 60 months of age
- Each class was weighted by the inverse of the proportion of that class

slgE values in kU/L. CART pruned based on complexity parameter from 10-fold cross validation.

### Classification and regression tree (CART) pruning

- A complete tree is grown and then pruned to obtain the optimal tree
- Based on the largest complexity parameter with the highest average balanced accuracy of the test sets from 10-fold cross-validation





### CART model



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slgE values in kU/L. CART pruned based on complexity parameter from 10-fold cross validation.

# Peanut sIgE trajectory for each cell in the confusion matrix for participants in the avoidance arm



Baseline visit 12m visit 30m visit 60m visit Baseline visit 12m visit 30m visit 60m visit





Baseline visit 12m visit 30m visit 60m visit Baseline visit 12m visit 30m visit 60m visit

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risk subgroup using stabilized inverse probability weighting (sIPW). Intervention arm i.e., peanut consumption arm. n=307 participants

### Baseline demographics and clinical characteristics of the intervention arm

Variable	Non-allergic	Allergic	<b>P</b> *	Overall
Ν	301	6		307
Sex, male, no. (%)	165 (54.8)	3 (50.0)	1	168 (54.7)
Race, no. (%)			<0.001	
White	214 (71.1)	4 (66.7)		218 (71.0)
Asian	19 (6.3)	0 (0.0)		19 (6.2)
Black	22 (7.3)	0 (0.0)		22 (7.2)
Mixed	46 (15.3)	1 (16.7)		47 (15.3)
Missing	0 (0.0)	1 (16.7)		1 (0.3)
Age, month (median [IQR])	7.75 [6.18, 9.00]	7.08 [5.60, 9.71]	0.789	7.75 [6.18, 9.03]
SPT-positive Stratum, no. (%)	40 (13.3)	1 (16.7)	1	41 (13.4)
Eczema, no. (%)	269 (89.4)	6 (100.0)	0.866	275 (89.6)
Egg allergy, no. (%)	191 (63.5)	4 (66.7)	1	195 (63.5)
peanut sIgE, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.03 [0.00, 0.20]	0.94 [0.06, 6.55]	0.052	0.03 [0.00, 0.23]
Ara h 1 sIgE, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.02]	0.02 [0.00, 0.06]	0.192	0.00 [0.00, 0.02]
Ara h 2 sIgE, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.02 [0.00, 0.04]	0.02 [0.00, 0.06]	0.799	0.02 [0.00, 0.04]
Ara h 3 sIgE, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.02]	0.05 [0.01, 0.16]	0.02	0.00 [0.00, 0.02]
Ara h 8 sIgE, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 0.03]	0.021	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]
Ara h 9 sIgE, kU/L (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	0.446	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]
peanut sIgG4, μg/L (median [IQR])	70.00 [70.00, 70.00]	70.00 [70.00, 77.37]	0.032	70.00 [70.00, 70.00]
Peanut wheal, mm (median [IQR])	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]	1.50 [0.00, 3.75]	0.747	0.00 [0.00, 0.00]



### **Classification of** participants in the intervention arm using the CART

(N=307)



### Estimating intervention effects for each risk subgroup

Contrast between the proportion of peanut allergy had the participants in both arms received or not received the intervention by applying stabilized inverse probability weighting (sIPW) to ensure covariate balance.



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SMD: standardized mean difference

### **Estimating intervention** effects for each risk subgroup

(N=307)



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Sensitivity analysis: Baseline data model without LOD adjustment

> In the baseline model with limit of detection adjustment, the split was at 0.1 kU/L Ara h 2 sIgE



# Peanut sIgE trajectory for each cell in the confusion matrix for participants in the avoidance arm



Baseline visit 12m visit 30m visit 60m visit Baseline visit 12m visit 30m visit 60m visit





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### Baseline and 12-months model: Age considerations



Additional variables to those at baseline and 12-months:

- time in months between baseline visit and 12-month visit
- difference between peanut slgE measured at baseline visit and 12-month visit
- difference between IgE to Ara h 2 measured at baseline visit and 12-month visit
- slope of peanut slgE
- slope of IgE to Ara h 2



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### Baseline and 12-months model: Variable selection and CART



# Using a greater LOD for sIgE values leads to a reduced AUC when modeling the baseline data





# Summary

- Utilized publicly available data of infants at high-risk for peanut allergy from the LEAP trial to determine risk subgroups and estimated the intervention effect of early peanut introduction for each risk subgroup.
- Infants with baseline peanut sIgE ≥0.22 kU/L benefited the most from the early introduction of peanut with an absolute reduction of 40% for the risk of peanut allergy at age 60 months.
- The intervention effects were significant across all risk subgroups in our model using real-world limit of detections for sIgE.
- These results are relevant for further risk assessment and clinical decisionmaking, including to address early dietary peanut introduction hesitancy.



# Limitations and considerations

- These models were built on and apply only to infants as eligible for the LEAP trial (i.e. infants at high risk for developing peanut allergy).
- Limited number of infants with peanut allergy at 60 months of age.
- A prevention study like the LEAP trial has smaller intervention effects due to the dilution effect.
- Only peanut allergy at 60 months of age can be predicted with the given data.



# **Questions?**

# Acknowledgments

- Bin Huang
- Yuxiang Li
- Ashley Devonshire
- Tingting Qiu
- Justin Schwartz

We thank the study investigators for making the individual participant level data from the LEAP trial available on ITN TrialShare



