

REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

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This study sought to characterize the initial presentation of hymenoptera venom allergic (HVA) patients and examine differences between patients with imported fire ant (IFA) and flying hymenoptera (FH) reactions.



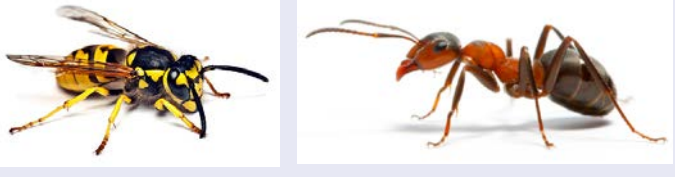
Methods

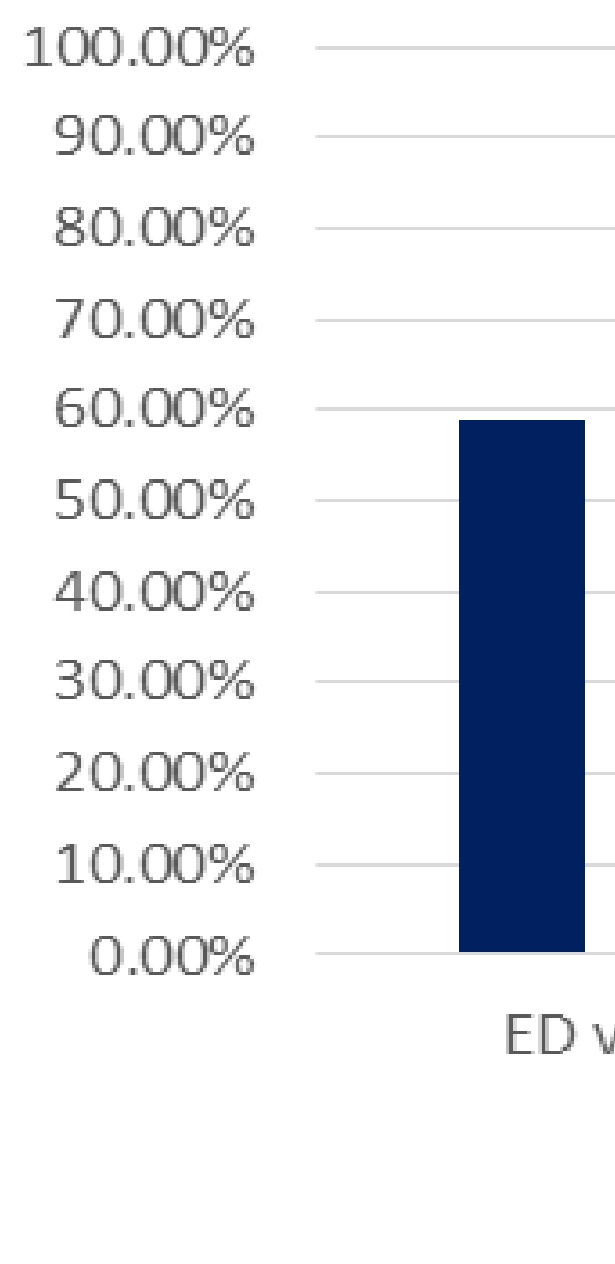
A multi-year, observational, single-institution analysis of patients referred for evaluation of HVA was performed. Data was obtained via physician interview and chart review including baseline characteristics, comorbid conditions, medications, culprit stinging insect, reaction severity, treatments, emergency department (ED) interventions and specific IgE results.

Results

175 patients were enrolled (mean age 28yrs \pm 14yrs; 44% males, 77/175). Of these, 21.7% (38/175) reacted to FH, 70.9% (124/175) to IFA and 7.4% (13/175) to both. There was no difference between FH and IFA patients when analyzing mean age, sex or likelihood to seek ED care. Asthma was similar in all groups and noted in 20.6% (36/175). The most common presentation was cutaneous plus another system and was similar in all groups; 114/175 (65%). ED treatments were similar in all groups and included epinephrine (32/150, 21%), antihistamines (141/155, 91%) and corticosteroids (67/148, 45.3%). Reaction severity correlated with likelihood of ED visit ($p=0.0005$), use of epinephrine ($p=0.0002$) and corticosteroid use ($p=0.03$). Patients presenting to the ED with anaphylaxis received epinephrine in 37% (27/73) of cases. Patients seen in ED whose venom allergy was confirmed was 68.3% (71/104), 91.5% of whom went on to initiate life-saving immunotherapy.

Characteristics based on culprit insect

FH	IFA	Both	Total
			
Culprit insect			
21.7% (38/175)	70.9% (124/175)	7.4% (13/175)	NA
Mean age (80.6% adults, 19.4% children < 17yrs)			
31yrs	26yrs	39yrs	28yrs
Sex (% male)			
42% (16/38)	44% (55/124)	46% (6/13)	44% (77/175)
Asthma			
18% (7/38)	21% (26/124)	23% (3/13)	20.60%
Who sought emergency care?			
55% (21/38)	61% (76/124)	54% (7/13)	59% (104/175)
Epinephrine use			
27% (7/26)	20% (23/113)	18% (2/11)	21% (32/150)
Antihistamine use			
92% (24/26)	91% (109/120)	89% (8/9)	91% (141/155)
Steroid use			
46% (11/24)	46% (53/115)	33% (3/9)	45% (67/148)



Conclusions

IFA and FH patients have many, now confirmed, similarities. Severity of reactions correlated with likelihood of ED visit independent of age. Notably only 37% of patients who met diagnostic criteria for anaphylaxis received epinephrine, that has been noted in previous studies now confirmed for patients with HVA. Children were all seen in ED when compared to adults.