

# Interpreting a Penicillin/Amoxicillin Allergy History Involving the Skin



## What?

- Bilateral facial swelling (around eyes or mouth)

## When?

- Within 6 hours of drug administration

## PCN allergy?

Label correctly for optimal treatment!

\*See PCN algorithm\*

This is:

**Anaphylaxis**

= **SEVERE** skin reaction



## What?

- Skin peeling or blistering
- Mucosal (eyes, mouth, genital) involvement

## When?

- After several days of drug administration
- Patient requires hospitalization

This is:

**Exfoliative dermatitis**

= **SEVERE** skin reaction



## What?

- "Bull's-eye" target-shaped rings

## When?

- After 2—3 days of drug administration

This is:

**Erythema multiforme**

= **SEVERE** skin reaction



## What?

- Itchy welts (red bumps with white centers, look like early mosquito bites)
- Can be single or multiple

## When?

- Within 6 hours of drug administration
- Bumps disappear after a few hours and new ones may develop

This is:

**Hives (*urticaria*)**

= **MODERATE** skin reaction



## What?

- Red dots covering a large area of the body
- May feel like sandpaper to the touch
- Usually on the trunk, arms, legs

## When?

- After 2-3 days of drug administration
- *Most common type of drug rash*

This is:

**Non-urticarial rash**

= **MILD** skin reaction

For skin testing, consult Allergy and Immunology.

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