Allergy is defined as a hypersensitive state acquired through exposure to a particular allergen, reexposure to which produces a heightened capacity to react.

Allergic reactions cover a broad range of clinical manifestations, from mild, delayed reactions that develop as long as 48 hours after exposure to the antigen, to immediate and life-threatening reactions developing within seconds of exposure.

The faster that symptoms develop after exposure to the antigen, the more concerned you should be about the severity of the situation.

Signs and symptoms of allergic reaction:
- Hive, itching
- Edema
- Flushed skin
- Conjunctivitis
- Rhinitis

Signs and symptoms of allergic reaction:
- Bronchospasm (Asthma)
  - Wheezing
  - Use of accessory muscles of respiration
Signs and symptoms of allergic reaction

- Laryngeal edema
  - Respiratory distress
  - Exaggerated chest movements
  - High-pitched crowing sound-stridor (partial obstruction), no sound (total obstruction)
  - Cyanosis
  - Loss of consciousness

Treatment of allergic reaction

- On the first sign or symptom of allergy
  - Benadryl (Diphenhydramine) 50 mg I.M.
  - P (position)
    - semi-reclining or supine
  - Monitor vital signs
  - O₂ through nasal cannula
  - Calm (reassure) the patient

Treatment of allergic reaction

- If signs and symptoms worsen or if they occur rapidly (seconds to minutes)
  - Epinephrine 0.1 to 0.5 ml of 1:1000 solution I.M. or S.C.
    - repeat every 10 to 15 minutes
    - 3-5 minutes for anaphylaxis
  - Children 0.01ml/kg of 1:1000 solution I.M. or S.C.
    - 50lb/2 = 25 X 0.01 ml = 0.25 ml

Treatment of allergic reaction

- If signs and symptoms worsen or if they occur rapidly (seconds to minutes)
  - A-B-Cs if necessary
  - 911 if you get to the A-B-Cs
  - P (position) supine if unconscious
    - Unconscious patient algorithm

Angioedema
(Angioneurotic edema)

- Noninflammatory edema involving
  - Skin
  - Subcutaneous tissue
  - Underlying muscle
  - Mucous membranes
    - GI tract
    - Upper respiratory tract
      - Larynx (Laryngeal edema)
Angioedema
(Angioneurotic edema)

- Occurs in response to exposure to an allergen (antigen)
- Treatment
  - The same as a severe allergic reaction with respiratory symptoms

QUESTIONS?

YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS ONE COLD!