



From the desk of Dr Harry

Do antibiotics contribute to the development of asthma, eczema and hay fever?

Harry Zehnwirth MBBS (HON) FRACP

Why is the prevalence of allergies and eczema rising?

The hygiene hypothesis states our reduced exposure to microbials (germs) has adversely affected our immune function. We are too clean. We use antibiotics as soon as our child develops a respiratory infection. Our homes are clean, with excellent sewerage systems and clean water supply. Children no longer have dirt under their fingernails.

The theory states a child's immune system is inadequately 'exercised', becomes 'unfit', and our bodies develop complications such as more allergies, immune diseases and even cancer.

Research recently published suggests a *correlation* between the use of antibiotics in the first year of life, and later development of eczema, asthma and hay fever.

However, *it does not confirm* that the antibiotic use has *caused* the problems. That question will be answered, I expect, in the near future by other international studies.

Refer here for more information click [here](#).

You can also visit Dr Harry's [blog](#) (eczema topics [here](#))

Or join Dr Harry on [FaceBook](#)

Copyright oKIDokie Pty Ltd January 2010