

Helpful Questions for Taking an Allergy Assessment

What exactly were the symptoms?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Raised, red, itchy spots with each lesion lasting less than 24 hours (hives/urticaria)?• Swelling of the mouth, eyes, lips or tongue (angioedema)?• Blisters or ulcers involving the lips, mouth, eyes, urethra, vagina, or peeling skin (seen in SJS, TEN, other severe type IV reactions)?• Respiratory or hemodynamic changes (anaphylaxis)?• Joint pains (seen in serum sickness)?• Did the reaction involve organs like the kidneys, lungs or liver (seen in DRESS, other severe type IV reactions)?
What was the timing of the reaction after taking the penicillin?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes or days later (immediate is most consistent with IgE)?• Was it after the first dose or after multiple doses?
How long ago did the reaction happen?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was it in childhood?• Does the patient remember the allergy or were they told about it?
How was the reaction treated?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Was there need for urgent care?• Was adrenaline/epinephrine administered?• Did it resolve on its own or were steroids or anti-histamines required to treat it?
Has the patient tolerated similar medications since the reaction?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ampicillin? Augmentin (amoxicillin-clavulanate)? Keflex (cephalexin)? Amoxicillin?