

MEDIA ALERT
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Contact:
Megan Brown
(414) 272-6071
mbrown@aaaai.org



Expert Advice Regarding Misconception of Relationship of Iodine Tablets And Allergic Reaction

Amid concerns of radiation poisoning, many consumers are rushing to purchase iodine tablets as a precaution. According to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology (AAAAI), there is a common misconception that those who have a shellfish allergy should not take these due to risk of an allergic reaction.

An AAAAI Practice Paper on the topic states that this concern stems from the iodine content in shellfish.

“There is no direct link between shellfish allergy and allergy to iodide. Shellfish allergy is caused by proteins in the food, not iodide,” explains Scott Sicherer, MD, FAAAAI, the author of the practice paper. “There is iodide in table salt, for example, and there is no concern of allergy to such salts.”

Contact Megan Brown at mbrown@aaaai.org for a copy of the practice paper or to interview Dr. Sicherer.

The [AAAAI](http://www.aaaai.org) represents allergists, asthma specialists, clinical immunologists, allied health professionals and others with a special interest in the research and treatment of allergic and immunologic diseases. Established in 1943, the AAAAI has nearly 6,500 members in the United States, Canada and 60 other countries.

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