

## For the Patient

The full report is titled “Monkeypox viral infection and disease: a challenge for the allergist/immunologist.” It is in the Nov-Dec 2022 issue of *Allergy Asthma Proceedings* (volume 43, pages 509–518). The authors are Lawrence D. Frenkel and Joseph A. Bellanti.

*For the Patient* is provided to physicians so that the patients can better understand the language of modern medicine.

*For the Patient* is written by the editors (Bellanti, JA and Settignano, RA) and provided to practitioners so that patients can better understand the usefulness of new information resulting from medical research.

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### **Monkeypox viral infection and disease: A challenge for the allergist/immunologist and the public**

**M**onkeypox is a disease caused by the monkeypox virus, a virus in the same family as smallpox, although much less severe. Symptoms are usually mild and rarely fatal, and include fever, headache, muscle aches, swollen lymph nodes, and a rash that can look like chickenpox, which typically resolves within 2–4 weeks. Although to date, the vast majority of the cases have been in men who have sex with men, any person, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, can acquire and spread monkeypox. Patients with immune deficiency, skin conditions (*e.g.*, eczema), and pregnant women may be at increased risk for severe disease. Monkeypox can be prevented with a new vaccine similar to one used previously for smallpox and can be treated with available antiviral medications. In a recent report, Frenkel and Bellanti from the Department of Biomedical Science, University of Illinois College of Medicine, Rockford, Illinois, and the Departments of Pediatrics and Microbiology-Immunology, Georgetown University Medical Center, Washington, D.C., review the epidemiology of monkeypox viral infection, its clinical manifestations, and current recommendations for diagnosis, treatment, and use of vaccines for prevention, with a focus on those aspects that have relevance to the allergist/immunologist.

#### **Why Did the Researchers Do This Particular Study?**

The study was carried out to address certain concerns related to monkeypox by the medical community and the patients whom they serve and to offer solutions and guidance to address these.

#### **Who or What Was Studied?**

Epidemiologic reports provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization.

#### **How Was the Study Done?**

Review of these reports and the authors’ professional and personal experiences.

#### **What Were the Limitations of the Study**

There still remain some unanswered questions, the most important of which is, will enough members of the public be well equipped with the best information to make informed decisions for themselves and their families to deal with current issues related to monkeypox.

#### **What Are the Implications of the Study?**

The authors review the epidemiology and clinical manifestations of monkeypox and describe efforts being conducted to address some of the current concerns of the medical community and the public. Although monkeypox is not as severe as coronavirus disease 2019 infection, the public should follow the same guidelines for disease prevention: handwashing and social distancing, and be aware of the availability of vaccine preventive and antiviral treatment options that are currently available. □