

OHSU Allergy and Immunology

Epinephrine

Epinephrine is the only approved medication used to treat severe allergic reactions or anaphylaxis. There are different kinds of epinephrine brands available, and they all work in the same way to relieve symptoms of anaphylaxis. The following are the most common epinephrine brands:

1. **Adrenaclick** is an auto-injector that delivers a single dose of epinephrine. It is available in a two-pack, and each device contains a dose of epinephrine.
2. **Auvi-Q** is an auto-injector that also delivers a single dose of epinephrine. It has a voice-guided system that talks you through the injection process, which can be helpful in stressful situations. Auvi-Q is available in a single-pack and is available in different doses for infants, children, and adults based on weight.
3. **EpiPen and EpiPen Jr.** are auto-injectors that come in a two-pack, available in different doses, depending on the patient's weight. EpiPen delivers a higher dose of epinephrine than EpiPen Jr., which is intended for use in children.
4. **Symjepi** is compact, two-step process auto-injector that delivers a single dose of epinephrine, similar to Adrenaclick and Auvi-Q. Symjepi is available in two doses: 0.3 mg for adults and adolescents who weigh 66 pounds or more, and 0.15 mg for children who weigh between 33 and 66 pounds. Symjepi is available as a two-pack, with each device containing a single dose of epinephrine.
5. **A generic EpiPen** is an FDA approved version of the EpiPen auto-injector that is manufactured and sold by a different company than the original brand name product, and often less expensive. The generic version contains the same active ingredient (epinephrine) and delivers the same dose as the brand name EpiPen. However, the generic EpiPen may have a different injector design or other minor differences in the product.
6. **Nefly** is a form of epinephrine that can be sprayed directly into the nose and helps with severe allergic reactions including anaphylaxis. It was recently approved by the FDA in early 2023, but is not widely available yet.

As with any medication, it's important to talk to your healthcare provider about which epinephrine product is right for you. No matter which epinephrine product you are prescribed, it's important to know how to use it correctly. Your healthcare provider or pharmacist can provide you with instructions on how to use your epinephrine device. It's also important to make sure that you carry your epinephrine with you at all times, in case of an emergency. If you experience a severe allergic reaction or anaphylaxis, use your epinephrine device immediately and seek medical attention right away.

Sources

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