

PLENARY LECTURES

NEW APPROACHES IN IMMUNOTHERAPY OF THE ALLERGIC DISEASES

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Summary

The intensive development of immunology, molecular biology, genetics and biotechnology stimulated very much our understanding of mechanism of allergization and the interest about new opportunities for better diagnosis, treatment and prophylaxis of atopic allergic diseases especially for improvement of allergen specific and non-specific immunotherapy. The allergen specific immunotherapy /SIT/ has been long and widely applied in the complex therapy of respiratory allergic diseases. But the last 20 years new approaches in this field are developed with the idea to change the natural outcome of the allergic sensitization - disease-modifying treatment. In this respect not only SIT but the great possibilities of the *nonconventional specific immunotherapy* has to be considered. The author discusses the contemporary achievements of this respect in terms of the application in the clinical practice of recombinant allergens, allergenic monovalent peptides and TCR peptides, synthetic allergens, DNA vaccines, chemically modified allergens /allergoids/, different monoclonal antibodies, Th1 immunostimulants or Th2 suppressors, the variety of forms and roads of administration of allergens for immunotherapy etc. In particularly the author shares his nearly 30 years experience with chemically modified allergens used for immunotherapy.

MEDICINE-ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF HUMAN LIFE

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Summary

To have children and to start a family is for many people an essential life content and is a supporting condition for the shaping of our social future. However, some people depend on the help of reproductive medicine to start a family. To help couples assisted human reproduction may use elective single embryo transfer, egg donation, embryo donation, surrogacy, PGD and cryopreservation of oocytes. Further debates comprise the genetic manipulation of embryos. Medical-ethical aspects consider appropriate treatment, unnecessary risks for mother and child, but also autonomy and dignity of the expectant person and his/her descendants. In addition, it is important to take account of social change and the diversity of today's family forms.