



Suffering from allergies? An Allergist can help

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 17 million adults and six million children had confirmed cases of hay fever in 2007. Hay fever and other allergies affect as many as 10 percent of adults and children in the U.S.

If a child develops allergies, the cause is a combination of the genes he or she inherited as well as his or her environmental exposure. If a parent has a history of allergies, then each child will have about a 40 percent chance of developing allergies. If both parents have allergies, the risk increases to about 80 percent.

To put it simply, allergies are the result of an over active immune system. Allergies are abnormal reactions to substances that are ordinarily harmless, called allergens. When inhaled, swallowed or touched, the immune system mistakenly learns to recognize these innocent foreign substances as being potentially dangerous, and consequently develops a defense against them. The result is an allergic reaction that can involve sneezing, sniffing, stuffy head, and red, itchy, watery eyes.

Allergist and Immunologist Bethany Gibson, MD of the ENTA Allergy, Head & Neck Institute is specially trained to treat allergies. She educates children and adults about preventing allergic reactions and provides personalized medication and therapy recommendations. If you suspect that you or a loved one has an allergy, contact Dr. Gibson for more information at 217-876-ENTA (3682).



Our Mission

- ◆ To provide the best care for our patients in a compassionate and caring environment.
- ◆ To work to advance the art, science and ethical practice of Otolaryngology, Head & Neck Surgery.
- ◆ To provide the most contemporary medical and surgical approaches to treating disorders of the ears, nose, throat and related structures of the head and neck.
- ◆ To integrate our efforts with those of primary care physicians and other specialists to optimize patient outcomes.

Focus On: Parathyroid Disease

ENTA offers specialized treatment through the Thyroid Surgical Institute

It's a well known fact that calcium and phosphorus work together to keep your bones strong and your teeth healthy. These vital minerals also help your blood clot and your muscles contract. Your parathyroid glands, which are located in all four corners of your thyroid gland, produce a hormone that helps maintain the proper balance of calcium and phosphorus in your body. When your parathyroid glands produce too much parathyroid hormone, the resulting condition is called hyperparathyroidism, which can cause the balance to be thrown off.



While most people with hyperparathyroidism have no signs or symptoms, hyperparathyroidism can cause weakness or fatigue and vague aches and pains. More severe signs and symptoms can develop over time. They include:

- Increased thirst and urination
- Kidney stones
- Heartburn or abdominal pain
- Nausea, vomiting or loss of appetite
- Osteoporosis
- Kidney damage
- Peptic ulcers
- High blood pressure

Because the signs and symptoms of hyperparathyroidism are generally mild and easily attributable to other factors, the condition often goes unrecognized until a routine calcium test is conducted,

though other blood tests. Ultrasonography can also detect the condition.

Once diagnosed, surgery is the most common treatment for hyperparathyroidism. ENTA Thyroid Surgical Institute provides diagnosis and management of parathyroid disorders, including minimally invasive alternatives to traditional surgery. Extensive experience with large numbers of patients has afforded perspective on which techniques are best suited to individual patients. Considerable counseling and patient education is provided so that patients can make an informed decision. If you suspect a thyroid disorder, or need assistance managing a current thyroid disorder, the specialists at the ENTA Thyroid Surgical Institute can work with you to identify the problem and determine the best approach. Contact Dr. Gibson for more information at 217-876-ENTA (3682).



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There is hope for Facial Paralysis

ENTTA offers specialized treatment for Facial Nerve Disorders

Facial paralysis, and facial or eyelid spasms, can be frustrating and embarrassing. A new onset of facial paralysis is most often diagnosed as Bell's Palsy, but not every patient with facial paralysis has this disorder. Some have other causes of facial palsy and need special testing to make a correct diagnosis.

If you have recently experienced the following symptoms, you may want to consult a specialist:

- Sudden or gradual onset of facial weakness
- Uncontrolled tearing of the eye
- Spasm of eyelid or face
- Inability to blink
- Facial numbness or tingling



The physicians of the ENTTA Allergy, Head and Neck Institute offer expertise in treating Facial Movement Disorders and can provide testing and recommendations for treatment. For more information on Facial Paralysis, contact the ENTTA Allergy, Head and Neck Institute at 217-876-ENTA (3682).

Our Physicians



Steven Sobol, MD, FACS
Medical Director



Stephen Chadwick, MD, FACS
Research Director



Terence Woods, MD, FACS
Otolaryngologist



Bethany Gibson, MD
Allergist & Immunologist



Candace N. Benner, APRN, NP
Nurse Practitioner