

Allergy, Asthma, Sinus and Immunology Center

Shawky A. Hassan, M.D., Ph.D.

Experienced Care For All Ages

Fikria E. Hassan, M.D., Ph.D.

NEW PATIENT BROCHURE

Welcome to our practice. We hope that this brochure will make you feel welcomed and at home. If you have any questions, feel free to ask, we will do our best to answer.

Our physicians, the Allergists are very qualified health professionals. They have extensive education and training to treat your allergy health issues with confidence and familiarity.

Both Dr. Shawky A. Hassan and Dr. Fikria E. Hassan are an unusual health team of husband and wife. Both physicians graduated from medical school in Cairo, Egypt, and served internship in Cairo University School of Medicine hospitals. After one year of training in immunology in Paris, France, they immigrated to the United States. Their post-graduate education was completed at several outstanding medical centers in the U.S. They both obtained a Master's degree from Baylor college of Medicine in Houston, Texas, followed by a Doctoral Degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Fellowship training in allergy, Asthma and immunology followed their academic achievements. Both physicians gained certification by the American Board of Allergy, Asthma, and Clinical Immunology. Both are Fellows of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, the American college of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology, the American Association of Certified Allergists and Immunologists.

They are members of the American Medical Association and the state and local Medical Societies. They are engaged in continued medical education activities and have a special interest in teaching and pursuing medical research.

The Practice of Allergy is a subspecialty of internal medicine and pediatrics. The most common allergic diseases that we care for are:

- **Allergy of the Lungs:** shortness of breath, chest tightness, wheezing, bronchial asthma, frequent bronchitis, frequent pneumonias, chronic cough, and uncontrolled emphysema.
- **Allergy of the Nose and sinuses:** rhinosinusitis, hay fever, frequent colds and infections, chronic sinusitis, post nasal drip, chronic cough and frequent hoarse voice and croup.
- **Allergy of the ears:** recurrent ear infections, frequent ringing in the ears, dizziness, vertigo and in some cases fluctuating hearing loss.
- **Allergy of the eyes:** red, watery, itchy and inflamed eyes, blurred vision.
- **Headaches:** result of sinus allergy, sinus infection or migraine.
- **Allergic skin rashes** such as eczema and contact dermatitis resulting from contact with pollens, foods, chemicals, and other environmental factors.
- **Hives and angioedema.**
- **Allergy to animal dander** most commonly cats, dogs, cockroaches and horses.

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- **Allergy to foods**, food additives or food colorings.
- **Allergy to stinging insects** (Honey Bee, Yellow Jacket, hornets, wasps and fire ants).
- **Allergy to medications.**
- **Allergy to the sunrays.**

Patient physician relationship: Confidence, trust, and mutual understanding are the basis of the doctor/patient relationship. We strongly encourage you to ask questions about your health. If the patient is a child, parents can assist by preparing their child for the visit with the doctor. Children can adapt if they know in advance what will happen. Telling the child that some pain may be felt during a particular procedure is more effective than telling the child that nothing will hurt, whereas to him it may. Allergy skin testing is not very painful; however, the restraint (20-30 minutes) required may be uncomfortable and cause apprehension.

Office hours: our office is open from 9 AM to 5PM Monday through Friday. Feel free to call us during these hours. Our staff is trained to handle most of your needs. If you need to speak to the physicians in person, you need only to ask. Any change in the schedule will be posted accordingly and in advance.

Our staff handles telephone calls and they respond to your questions and requests. The Physicians return phone calls as soon as possible. If our doctor is out of the office, you can be sure that our capable staff will relay your message and get back to you. If you have an emergency, don't wait, take the patient immediately to the nearest emergency room. Keep a list of emergency numbers near your phone at all times.

Who Should Accompany the Patient during the office visit? Adult patients should come into the examination room alone without children, no friends or relatives. This is to ensure medical confidentiality. If the patient is a minor, a parent or legal guardian must come along. Spouses are encouraged to attend come along especially for the treatment conference.

Smoking policy: Under no circumstance can any form of smoking be allowed in our office.

Office Fees: The cost of the allergy workup varies depending upon specific patient health needs. We ask that you become familiar with the office charges and your insurance coverage before services are rendered. The fee for the initial office visit with the doctor varies depending on how complex the health problem is. Charges for other office procedures are given to you upon request, before the services are rendered.

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Insurance coverage: Our office will file the necessary insurance claims for the services rendered to you.

Medications and Prescriptions: Whenever possible, we like to offer free samples of medications to our patients. If effective and without side effects, you will be given a prescription. Generic medications are safe and effective, however; in certain instances we prefer trademark medications. If you have financial difficulties in obtaining a certain medication, let us know, and we will do our best to assist you. If you use a medication regularly, please make sure to keep an ample supply on hand. All prescriptions and authorizations for renewal must be requested during normal office hours.

After Hour Coverage and Referrals: At our Center, we attempt to be as readily available to you as possible for emergencies that may occur after normal business hours. However, should you have an emergency and our doctors cannot be reached, you are instructed to go directly to the nearest emergency room and have the emergency doctor contact your primary care physician.

If you do not have a primary care physician, we will be happy to assist you in locating a physician for you. Please ask our doctors for assistance.

Tax Deductible Items: During the course of the allergy treatment, certain expenses are incurred to control the environment of the patient and decrease exposure to allergens. These include (but are not limited to) air conditioners, filters, special respiratory equipment and the like. We can provide you with written verification for such purchases to use in preparing your tax returns.

Appointments: Visits are by appointment only, and we do make every effort to adhere to our schedule. Sometimes, however, emergencies do occur and could result in delays. We appreciate your understanding when this occurs. Please let us know at least 48 hours in advance if you cannot keep an appointment so that we may offer your appointment time to another patient.

New patients: Please print from our website at www.allergytoday.com the new patient registration form (one page), and the new patient Allergy history form (5 pages), complete both forms and bring them with you when you come to the office. You can also fax or e-mail the forms back to us. By registering with our office before your scheduled office appointment, your time spent in our office will be mainly with the doctors rather than spending this valuable time answering these questionnaires. Our physicians will also obtain a more history from you followed by a comprehensive physical examination. This comprehensive initial visit is important. The information gathered at this time will help determine the methods to use for diagnosis and treatment of your condition.

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Allergy Skin Test: Many patients we see need allergy testing. This is a helpful procedure to diagnose specific allergens and estimates the severity of the allergies that you may be suffering from. Allergy testing is not mandatory. The allergy tests consist of two (sometimes three) parts and are done in our office in approximately 2 hours. You will be given all the details before you obtain an appointment to have the skin tests. After skin testing is completed you will be given the results of these tests. Several medications must be stopped for 7 days before taking the allergy tests such as Antihistamines, Decongestants. Beta Blockers if possible should be stopped for 2-3 days before the allergy tests. You should check with the physician who prescribed the Beta-blocker before stopping it.

We look forward to the opportunity to manage your Allergy and Asthma health care and help you to lead an active and productive life.

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