



Peanut Allergy

[Source: BBC](#)

Recently, Australia has launched a groundbreaking program for **treating peanut allergies in infants**, aiming to build immunity through **oral immunotherapy**.

- **Australia is often referred to as the "allergy capital of the world," with 1 in 10 infants diagnosed with food sensitivities.**
 - The prevalence of **peanut allergy in India is quite low (around 0.03%)** among children.
- **The program is designed for babies under 12 months who have been diagnosed with peanut allergies and are receiving care at participating hospitals.**
- **Peanut Allergy:**
 - It occurs when your immune system mistakenly identifies **peanut proteins** as something **harmful**.
 - Peanut exposure can occur through direct contact (eating peanuts or peanut-containing foods), cross-contact (peanuts unintentionally included in other foods), or inhalation (breathing in peanut dust or aerosols).
- **Symptoms:**

Peanut allergy

Symptoms

- Itchy skin or hives, which can appear as small spots or large welts
- A runny or congested nose
- An itching or tingling sensation in or around the mouth or throat
- Nausea
- Anaphylaxis (less common), a potentially life-threatening reaction that impairs breathing and can send the body into shock. Symptoms include:
 - impaired breathing
 - swelling in the throat
 - a sudden drop in blood pressure
 - pale skin or blue lips
 - fainting
 - dizziness

STRAITS TIMES GRAPHICS

- **Treatment Method:** Peanut allergy treatment focuses on avoidance, but **oral immunotherapy**, such as **Palforzia** (approved for ages 4-17), can reduce severe reactions. It's not a cure and is not suitable for those with certain conditions.

Read more: [Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/peanut-allergy>