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YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH

Presented by the medical professionals at Midcoast Pediatrics

New Hope For Peanut Allergy

The threat of a lurking nut continues to be a source of anxiety for parents of children who are allergic to peanuts, but new studies hold promise. Peanut allergy, one of the most common food allergies in the United States, affects about three million Americans and results in about 150 deaths annually. Meanwhile, the classic PB&J remains one of the most popular lunchtime sandwiches. Scientists are working hard to find a cure for peanut allergy, the cause of which remains elusive but has been tentatively linked to the roasting process and the amount of peanuts a mother eats during pregnancy. Research has shown some success at a gradual desensitizing of allergic children using peanut flour in a controlled environment.

Allergic reactions to foods that we eat will usually happen quickly. Allergies to peanuts or any other food occur when the body's immune system mistakes compounds from foods as invaders and creates antibodies to fight them. To find out more about today's column, or if your child needs an evaluation for a possible food allergy, call MIDCOAST PEDIATRICS at 207-721-8333. We are located at 121 Medical Center Drive, Suite 2600, Brunswick. New patients are welcome.

P.S. If you suspect your child has a food allergy or sensitivity, discuss your options with the pediatrician.

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