

## Definitions relative to adverse reactions to foods

Term	Definition
Adverse reaction to a food	A clinically abnormal response believed due to an ingested food or food additive
Food sensitivity	A general term implying an adverse reaction to an ingested food or food additive
Food hypersensitivity	An immunologic hypersensitivity or truly „allergic“ reaction resulting from the ingestion of a food or food additive
Food allergy	A term synonymous with „food hypersensitivity“, but frequently overused and applied to any adverse reaction to a food or food additive
Anaphylactoid reaction to a food	Anaphylaxis-like food reaction as a result of „nonimmune“ release of chemical mediators which can mimic the signs and symptoms of food hypersensitivity
Food idiosyncrasy	A quantitatively abnormal response to a food or food additive; this response differs from its physiology or pharmacologic effect and resembles a hypersensitivity reaction, but it does not involve an immune mechanism
Food intolerance	A physiologic response to an ingested food or food additive which is not proven to be immunologic, metabolic, or toxic food reactions
Food toxicity	A general term implying an adverse reaction following the ingestion of a food or food additive as a result of a direct nonimmune action
Food poisoning	An adverse reaction following ingestion which is a result of a natural toxic constituent of the food, or contamination of the food by microorganisms and/or their toxins
Pharmacologic food reaction	A reaction in the host recipient as a result of chemicals in ingested food including food additives
Metabolic food reaction	A metabolic response in the host recipient to ingested food or food additives

Aus: F. M. Atkins, D. D. Metcalfe: The diagnosis and treatment of food allergy. Ann. Rev. Nutr.,4:233-255(1984)