Am I Allergic?

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Background
In 2005 277,000 people in Denmark suffered from asthma and 899,000 from respiratory allergies. The Report on Public Health 2007 estimated that these numbers will increase to 433,000 (asthma) and 1,695,000 (respiratory allergies). As specialized medical training within these fields has been discontinued, there is more pressure on general practitioners (GPs), who are now increasingly responsible for diagnosing and prescribing care. The experience is that, because of the very wide areas of responsibility of the GPs, it is an advantage if the patient can participate in identifying symptoms, to enable an early diagnosis.

Problem
Astma-Allergi Danmark wishes to enable people with allergy to contribute to their own diagnosis and treatment and hereby strengthen the collaboration between GP and patient. This requires that the patient has a certain level of knowledge about symptoms and diseases and the correlation between these. Currently, Astma-Allergi Danmark has such information available at www.astma-allergi.dk. However, this is organized in a way that it requires the user to know the name of their disease, in order to search for more information. This is very challenging to use for users with a non-diagnosed allergy and for those who wish to investigate a possible correlation between symptoms and potential diagnoses. You must assist Astma-Allergi Danmark in finding a solution for this problem.

Challenge
Astma-Allergi Danmark wish to make it more accessible for the members to learn about their condition. We wish to develop a solution where the users to a greater extent than currently can find information based on their symptoms, e.g. itching in eyes and nose. One example of a potentially inspiring solution can be found on the homepage for Institut for Rationel Farmakoterapi (www.irf.dk). Here the user can navigate on a clickable body and hereby explore correlations between symptoms and possible diseases.
One benefit with this approach is that the starting point is the symptom rather than the diagnosis. Hereby it is possible to ask the user a number of questions and propose a potential diagnosis and actions, e.g., to contact the GP.

In case of allergy, possible questions could be: Where does the symptoms appear? Does the symptoms occur at a certain time of the year or in particular situations? Do you also have symptoms from the nose? Etc.

It is however quite challenging to design such a solution, as symptoms are often very ambiguous. To develop a solution therefore requires that you investigate how allergy is diagnosed, how symptoms are experienced by the patient, and how patients can best be supported in identifying, examining and documenting symptoms?

Requirements

Functional requirements:

• The solution must assist the user in identifying and interpreting symptoms, and thereby point them towards a potential diagnosis.

• The solution must assist the user in deciding on further activities, e.g., consulting the GP.

• The solution must not lead the user to believe that the suggested diagnosis is a product of a medical examination. The goal is to evaluate if they need to consult a health professional.

Technical requirements

• The solution must be able to show on www.astma-allergi.dk

• The solution must be developed in HTML5

• The solution can be supplemented by a smartphone app, alternatively be optimized to show on mobile devices.