Diagnosis of Atopic eczema

Ahmed Ismail Manjra
FCP (SA) Paeds, Diploma in Allergy(SA), FAAAAI, M Clin Pharm
Westville Hospital
Durban
Atopic Eczema is a chronic disease that often begins in infancy.

Age at diagnosis of AD

0–1 years
1–5 years
Over 5 years

Atopic Dermatitis (AD) is a chronic, relapsing, itchy skin disease. It may be the beginning of the Atopic March.

Incidence of AD is increasing in all industrialized nations.
RELATIVE PREVALENCE OF ALLERGIC DISORDERS

Relative prevalence of symptoms according to age (many children exhibit symptoms simultaneously).
Nomenclature and Classification

2004 World Allergy Organization Nomenclature Review committee

- **Dermatitis**: Umbrella term for local inflammation of the skin
- **Eczema**: term describing an aggregation of several skin diseases with clinical characteristics in common, involving a genetically determined skin barrier defect.
- **Atopy**: underlying inflammation is dominated by an IgE antibody associated reaction.
Dermatitis

- Eczema
  - Atopic eczema
  - Non-atopic eczema
- Contact dermatitis
  - Allergic contact dermatitis
- Other forms of dermatitis
  - Non-allergic contact dermatitis

Diagnostic Features of AD

**Essential**
- Pruritus
- Eczema
  - Typically morphology-age specific patterns*
  - Chronic, relapsing course

**Important**
- Early age on onset
- Atopy
  - Personal or family history
  - IgE reactivity
- Xerosis

*Face, neck and extensor in infants
Flexural lesions in any age group
Sparing of groin or axillary region

Note: Intrinsic Atopic Dermatitis
- Normal IgE

Associated Diagnostic Features

- Atypical vascular response
  - Facial pallor
  - White dermatographism
- Keratosis Pilaris
- Hyperlinear palms
- Ichthysisosis

- Ocular changes
- Periorbital changes
- Perifollicular changes
- Lichenification
- Prurigo Lesions

Atopic eczema in infants
AE in older children

- Flexural involvement occurs in later age groups
- Involves knees, ankles, elbows and wrists
lichenification

Occurs in older children and adults

Very thick skin with linear fissures.

Very difficult to treat.
Infected facial eczema
Atopic Dermatitis
Differential Diagnosis

Common Disorders

• Seborrheic dermatitis
• Contact dermatitis (allergic & irritant)
• Psoriasis
• Scabies
• Tinea Corporis
• Ichthyosis vulgaris
Tinea corporis

- Itchy
- ring-shaped, red-colored skin rash.
- The rash may occur on the arms, legs, face, or other exposed body areas.
- The border of the rash lesions look scaly
Icthyosis vulgaris

- Dry skin
- Scaly
- Thickened skin
- Mild pruritis
- Autosomal dominant
scabies

• Mimicker of all skin diseases.
• Very itchy
• Involves entire body
• Involves web of fingers
• Highly contagious.
Seborrhoeic dermatitis

- Affects scalp, face, trunk
- Scaly
- Can be itchy
- Flaky skin
psoriasis

- Red raised patches with silvery scales: plaques
- Can affect children
- Also nappy area
- Affects elbows, knees, scalp in children
- Not usually itchy