Atopic Dermatitis (AD)

What is Atopic Dermatitis?

Atopic dermatitis (AD), the most common type of eczema, is a chronic, relapsing, inflammatory skin condition. AD is not contagious. It is caused by a combination of factors, including an overactive immune system that results in immune dysregulation, gene mutations and environmental factors that lead to inflammation and damage to the skin. The damaged skin is then more sensitive to antigens, allergens and irritants present in everyday life, as well as infections.

Prevalence

A family history of the condition greatly increases a person's risk of developing AD. Patients with AD are at an increased risk of developing other allergies or diseases, including asthma, allergic rhinitis and food allergies. Patients with AD have a high risk of developing skin infections, including yeast, bacterial and viral infections. People with AD can have a high risk of developing skin infections caused by bacteria, such as Staphylococcus aureus.

Symptoms

The most common symptom of AD is itch. AD is characterized by itchy skin that turns into an itchy, red rash. It can occur anywhere on the body, from the face to the soles of the feet. AD can cycle through periods of dormancy and active disease. Each person has unique AD triggers that can cause their disease to become active. These may include:

- Personal hygiene
- Moisturizers
- Emollients
- Topical agents, such as corticosteroids or antimicrobials
- Systemic treatments (treatments that circulate through the whole body)

In school-aged children, AD has been shown to impair:
- Performance of daily activities
- Participation in school
- Participation in sports and outdoor activities
- Participation in social activities
- Participation in school
- Participation in extracurricular activities
- Participation in social activities
- Participation in sports
- Participation in daily activities

Active AD can negatively affect quality of life and the psychological stress of patients. AD can cause their disease to become active. These may include:

- Reduced school performance
- Reduced performance in daily activities
- Reduced performance in school
- Reduced performance in extracurricular activities
- Reduced performance in social activities
- Reduced performance in sports

Disease Burden

Active AD can negatively affect quality of life and the psychological stress of patients. AD can cause their disease to become active. These may include:

- Reduced school performance
- Reduced performance in daily activities
- Reduced performance in school
- Reduced performance in extracurricular activities
- Reduced performance in social activities
- Reduced performance in sports

Treatment

A major part of AD management is hygiene and skin care routine. Avoidingitching triggers and gentle bathing, as well as moisturizing with emollients, can help to reduce AD flares.

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Short-term treatments may include:

- Antihistamines
- Topical agents, such as corticosteroids or antimicrobials
- Systemic treatments (treatments that circulate through the whole body)

There is a significant unmet need for additional medications to help treat AD.