Atopic Dermatitis: A Global View of Diagnosis

How Common Is Atopic Dermatitis? A Snapshot of Global Prevalence



AAD 2014 Diagnostic Guidelines



Photographic Examples of AD



Atopic Dermatitis: A Global View of Diagnosis (CONT)

Frequency of Specific Clinical Features by Region



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Atopic Dermatitis Presentation: Variations in Skin of Color

Patients with skin of color, particularly Black patients and Asian patients, may present with different clinical features of AD compared with White patients:



Asian Patients



- More well-demarcated lesions, scaling, and lichenification relative to White patients
- Extensor involvement more common relative to White patients
- Erythrodermic AD more common in adolescents and adults in East Asia, particularly those with a longer disease course



- · Less flexural; greater extensor involvement relative to White patients
- Hyper/hypopigmentation, perifollicular accentuation, lichen planus-like presentation
- · Erythema may appear violaceous and can be easily missed
- Presence of edema, warmth, or scale can help identify underlying erythema

Atopic Dermatitis Presentation: Variations by Age



Infants + Toddlers (0-2 years)

Face, scalp, and extensor surfaces; often weepy, crusted, or vesicular

Can initially manifest with flexural lesions



Children + Adolescents (≥2-16 years)

Favors antecubital and popliteal fossae, neck, dorsal feet Evolving toward adult form with more lichenification and ill-defined plaques

Occasionally, a "dirty neck" is observed in adolescents



Late Teens + Adults (>16 years)

Characterized by pronounced clinical heterogeneity

Forms of presentation specific to adults include head-and-neck dermatitis, chronic eczema of the hands, multiple areas of lichenification, or prurigo lesions

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Differential Diagnoses by Age



Infants + Toddlers 0-2 years

Seborrheic dermatitis Ichthyosis vulgaris Scabies Psoriasis Phenylketonuria Ectodermal dysplasia Celiac disease IgA deficiency DiGeorge syndrome (22q11.2 deletion) DOCK8 deficiency syndrome Agammaglobulinemia Netherton syndrome Wiskott-Aldrich syndrome



Tinea manuum or tinea pedis Impetigo Psoriasis Pityriasis rosea Conditions listed for infants and toddlers that might not have been diagnosed early in life



Late Teens + Adults >16 years

Allergic contact eczema Psoriasis Pityriasis rosea Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma Pityriasis rubra pilaris Asteatotic eczema Netherton syndrome

Region-Specific Considerations



Sub-Saharan Africa:

Major differential diagnoses may include scabies, insect bites, actinic lichen planus, HTLV-1 infective dermatitis, and HIV infection– and AIDS-related skin changes



Latin America

Scabies, papular urticaria, and helminth infections (which can be associated with rashes) are more frequent in some communities

Atopic Dermatitis: A Global View of Diagnosis (CONT)

Abbreviations:

AAD: American Academy of Dermatology; AD: atopic dermatitis; EASI: Eczema Area and Severity Index; HTLV-1: human T-lymphotropic virus 1.

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