



Comprehensive Atopic Dermatitis Care:

Enhancing Patient Care through Collaborative Management



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Program Goals

1. Review strategies to overcome AD gaps (e.g., identification, prevention, reducing disease burden)
2. Assess pharmacologic/non-pharmacologic options for pediatric AD treatment
3. Discuss strategies for coordination of care with specialists based on evidence-based standards
4. Review the QoL burden of AD (e.g., emotional/psychosocial, sleep disturbance, decreased productivity)



Diagnosis, Epidemiology, and Pathogenesis



Features

Chronic, pruritic, inflammatory skin disease characterized by

- Onset under age 5
- Acute flares
- Eczematous change
 - erythema
 - induration, papulation
 - excoriation
 - lichenification
- Distribution
- Associated skin conditions (minor diagnostic criteria)
- Associated morbidities
- Familial occurrence



Age-Related Characteristic Distribution





Unique Features in Skin of Color



- Follicular/papular & nummular morphology
- Obscured erythema
- Prominent lichenification
- Dyspigmentation





Associated Skin Conditions: Ichthyosis Vulgaris





Associated Skin Conditions: Keratosis Pilaris Vulgaris





Associated Skin Conditions: Pityriasis Alba





Impact: Epidemiology

- Onset <5 yrs of age in 90%
- ~1/4 of adults with AD report adult-onset of disease
- Increasing prevalence: 13% in the US
 - 10-20% of US school children
 - Adult-onset in 2-8%
- Increasing costs: ~\$5.3 billion/yr
- Greater impact on quality of life than type I DM



Multifactorial Pathogenesis

Multiple conceptual models have been developed

- Skin-barrier dysfunction
- Immune dysregulation
- Dysbiosis
- Environmental triggers
- Genetics



Management



Impact: Patient-Reported Symptoms

Itch Frequency

86% reported itch occurring every day

Itch Severity

61% reported “severe” or “unbearable” itch

Itch Duration

42% reported itch lasting ≥ 18 hours/day

Sleep Disturbances

55% reported sleep disturbances ≥ 5 nights/week

Pain/Discomfort

77% reported “moderate” or “extreme” pain or discomfort

N=380 adults with atopic dermatitis, nearly all of whom were treated with topical therapies during the past 3 months; half of the patients were also treated with systemic therapies during the past year.

Simpson EL, et al. *J Am Acad Dermatol*. 2016;74(3):491-498.



Impact: Psychosocial Impact



50%

**of adults AD report
negative effect on
sexual relationships**



40%

**of adults with AD
report negative effect
on social relationships**



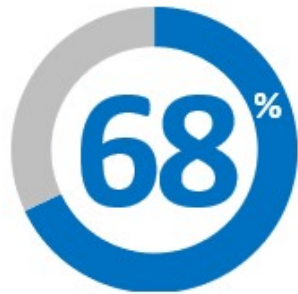
39%

**of children are
teased or bullied due
to their AD**

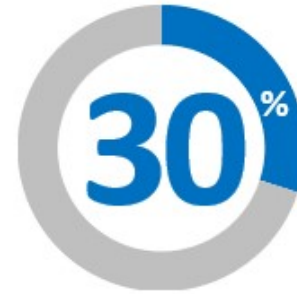
- **83% of teens with AD avoid at least 1 everyday activity**
- **46% of teens with AD report negative effects on school performance**



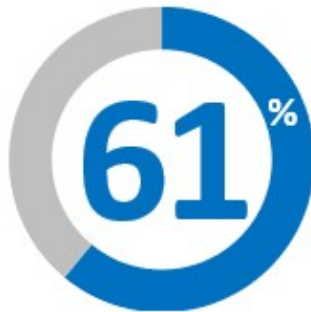
Impact: Sleep



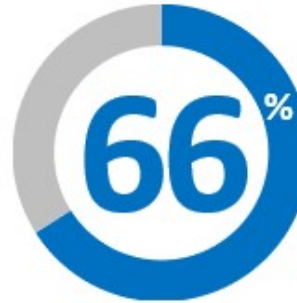
Parents reported child's sleep was disturbed by AD



Children cosleeping with parents



Parents reported their sleep was disturbed by AD



Parents reported being bothered by cosleeping

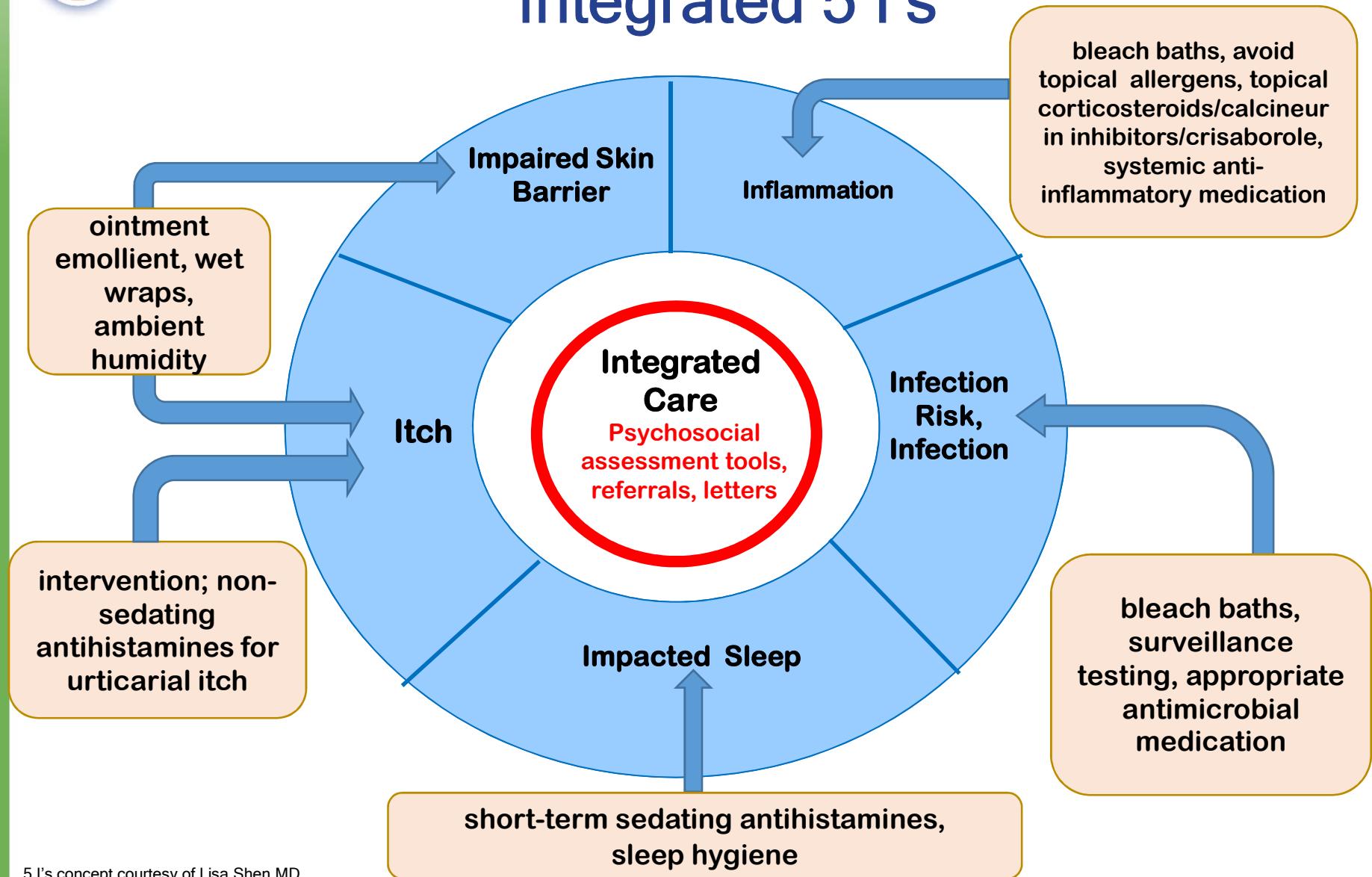
Sleep disturbance, sleep quality, and cosleeping are directly associated with severity of AD.



Video: Tina and Lydia



The AD Circle of Comprehensive Care: “Integrated 5 I’s”





Diagnosis



Audience Response Question

Which of the following is true of AD in skin of color as compared to AD in fair skin?

1. More frequent extensor involvement on extremities
2. Greater likelihood of follicular/papular eczema
3. Increased nummular and more severely lichenified lesions
4. More difficult to appreciate erythema
5. All of the above



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AD: Classic Distribution Changes with Age

Skin of Color

Clinical diagnosis

- Historical features
- Distribution and morphology of skin lesions
- Associated clinical signs

Infants

Usually facial;
extensor
extremities

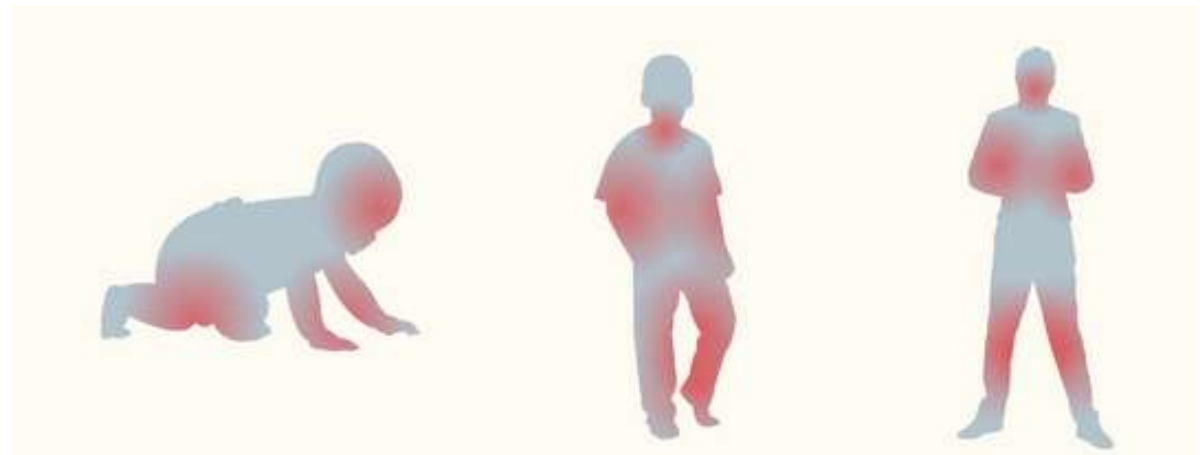
Children

Flexural folds of
extremities;
wrists; ankles

Adults

Hands; feet;
head; neck

Greater extensor involvement of extremities along with flexural; more follicular/papular eczema; increased nummular and more severely lichenified lesions





AAD Simplified AD Diagnostic Criteria

“Essential”

- Pruritus
- Eczema (acute, subacute, chronic)
 - Typical morphology and age specific patterns
 - Chronic or relapsing history

“Important”

- Early age of onset
- Atopy
 - Personal and/or family history
 - Immunoglobulin E reactivity
- Xerosis

“Associated Features”

- Atypical vascular responses (e.g., facial pallor, white dermographism, delayed blanch response)
- Keratosis pilaris/ pityriasis alba/ hyperlinear palms/ ichthyosis
- Ocular/periorbital changes
- Perifollicular accentuation/ lichenification/ prurigo lesions



Other Common Misdiagnoses

Scabies



**Burrows;
palm/sole
involvement**



**Tinea
Incognito**



**Border
accentuation,
hair thinning**



**Non-Atopic
Eczema**



**Occupational
exposures,
winter eczema**





Treatment



Treatment Should Consider Patient Preferences & Capabilities

AD is chronic, and characterized by episodic flares

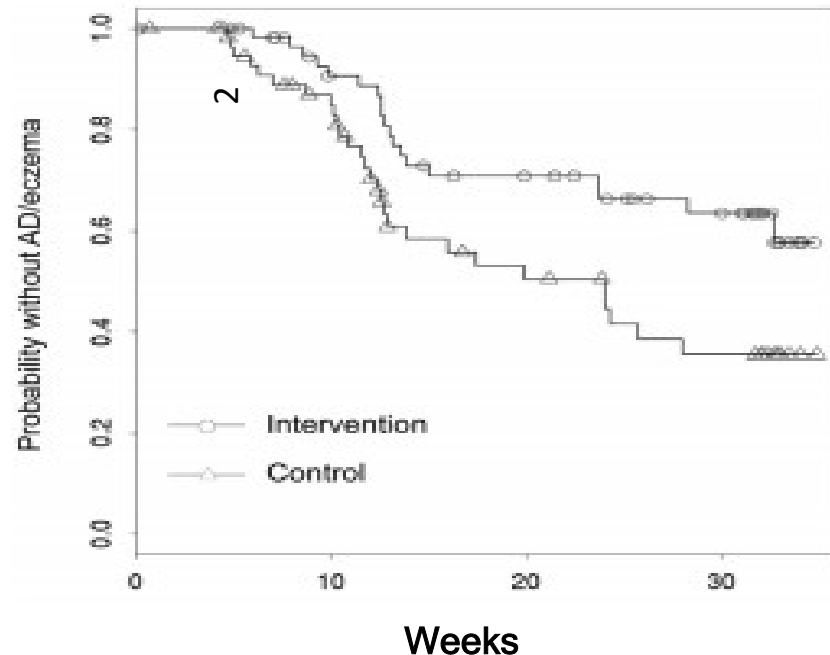
- Consider benefits and risks of each option
- Consider patient preference and adherence
- Treat flares
- Address disease chronicity

Goals of Treatment

- Mild or absent symptoms
- Undisturbed activities of daily living
- Decrease acute flares



Mixed Clinical Evidence on the Impact of Bland Skin Care in AD Prevention

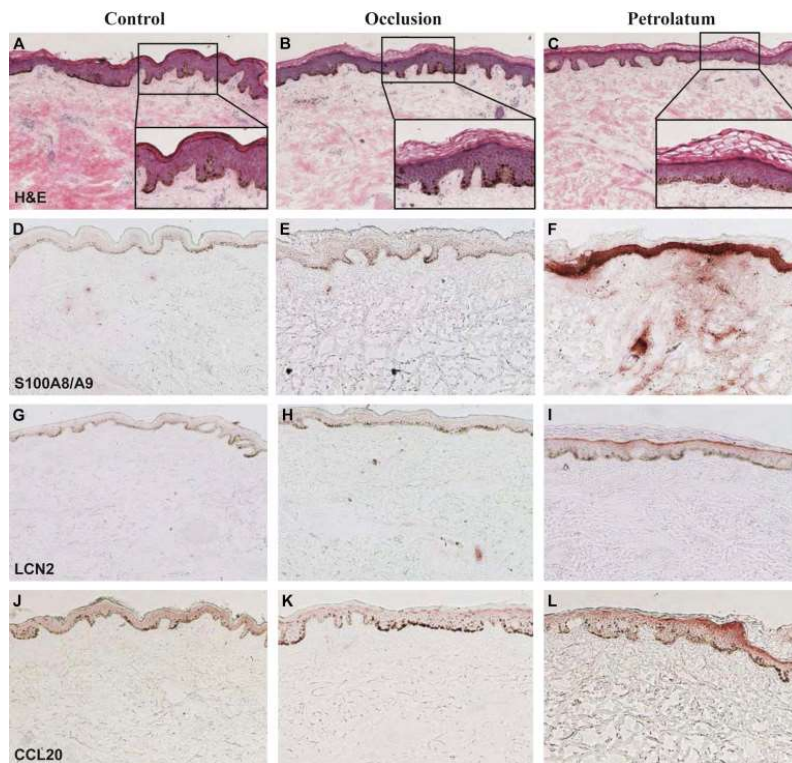


- Cochrane review of 77 studies: most moisturizers showed “some beneficial effects” (e.g., reduced flares/time to flare) with no single agent better than another²
- Recent abstracts of large-scale studies in unselected patients report no protective effect^{3,4}

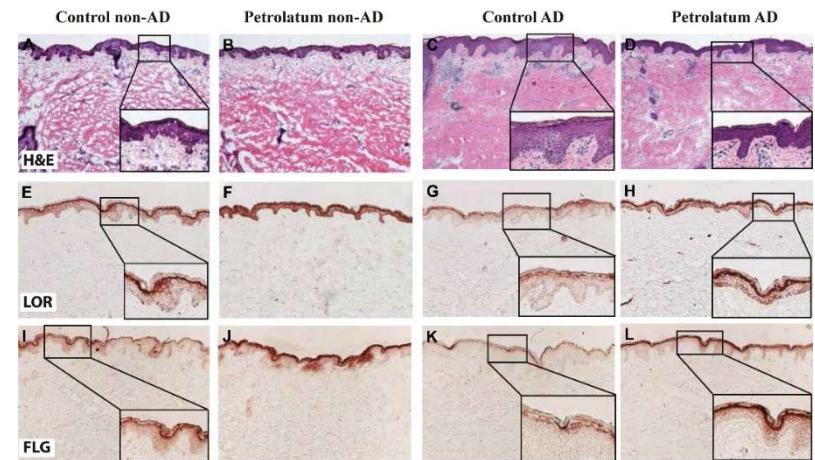


Petrolatum Increases Antimicrobial & Structural Skin Peptides

Increased AMP expression and SC integrity



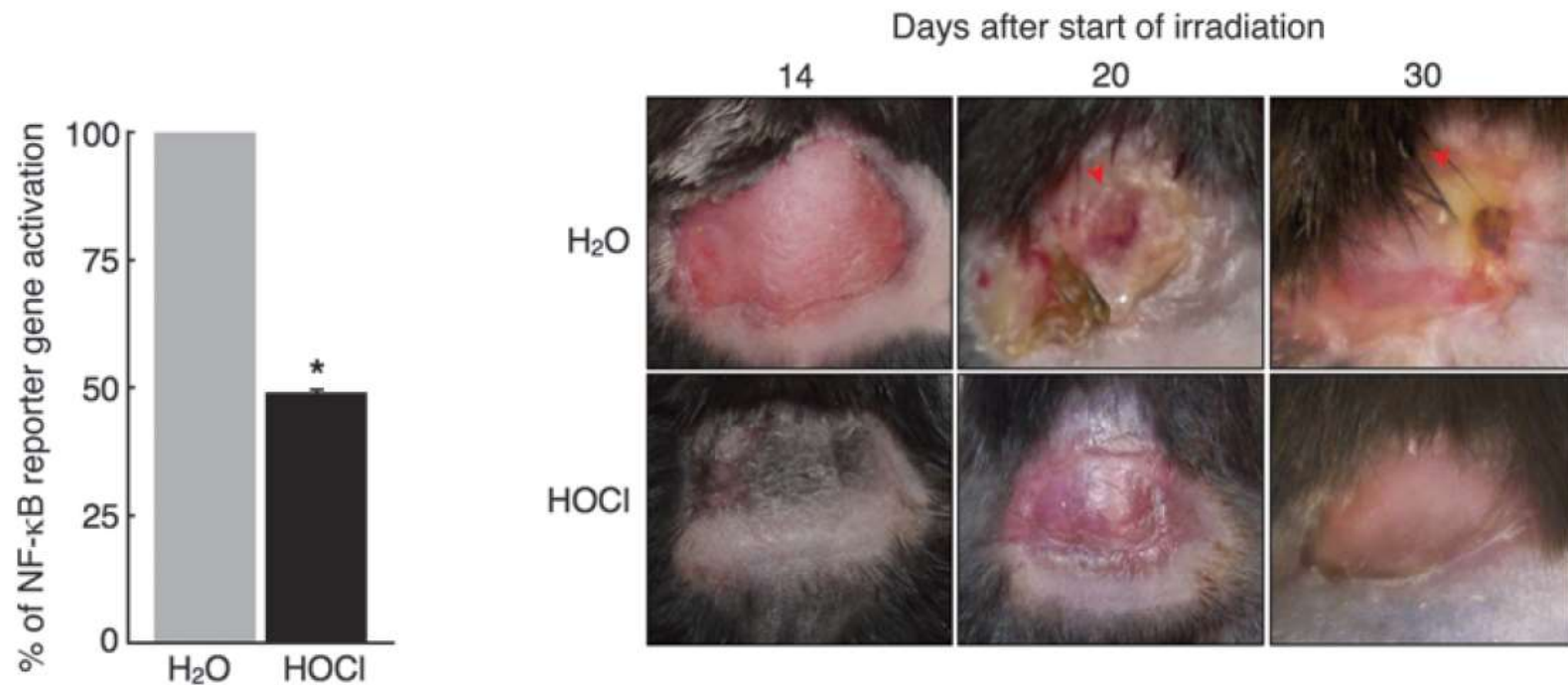
Increased LOR/FLG expression



- Cost-effective
- Doesn't burn or sting
- Non-allergenic
- Tactile aversion
- Beware added fragrance
- Risk of rubbing



Dilute Bleach Soaks are Anti-inflammatory



Mice pretreated with 0.005% bleach x 30 min before 6 Gy irradiation daily X 10d had less inflammation and ulceration.



Mixed Clinical Evidence on the Efficacy of Bleach Baths in Treating AD

- Improved disease in patients with bacterial infections^{1,2}
- No more effective than plain water bathing^{3,4}

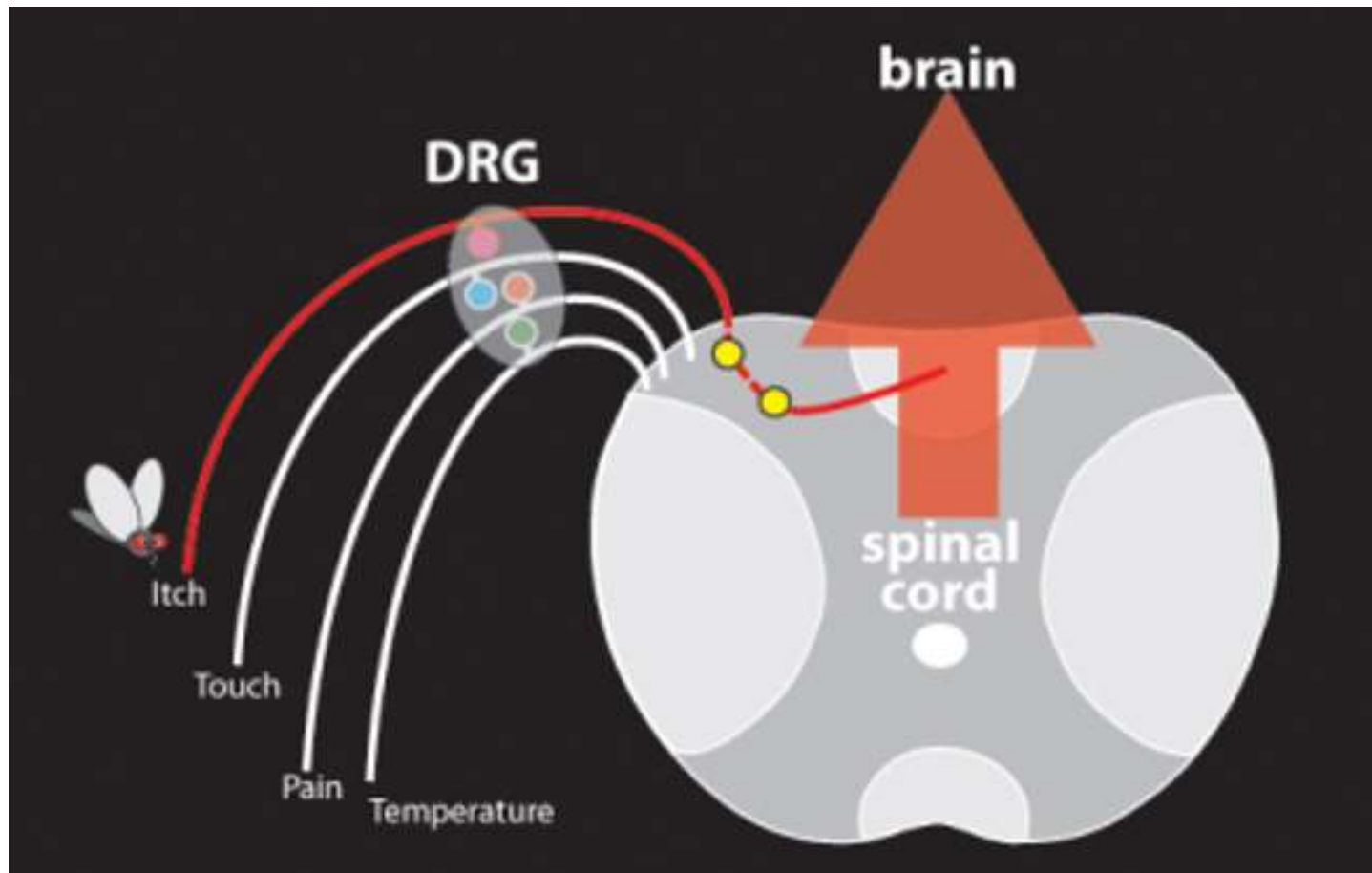


1. Maarouf M, et al. *Dermatitis*. 2018;29(3):120-6.
2. Wong SM, et al. *J Dermatol*. 2013;40(11):874-880
3. Hon KL, et al. *J Dermatolog Treat*. 2016;27(2):156-162
4. Chopra R, et al. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol*. 2017;119(5):435-440



Itch Intervention with Cooling

Itch and Cold Perception Compete





AD Severity Informs *Customized* Stepped Therapy

		SEVERE	
		MODERATE	
Maintenance	MILD	Consider specialist referral Add bleach baths, wet wraps Maintenance TCI or crisaborole <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to twice daily Monitor quantities Intermittent TCS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium potency 15 days per month Monitor quantities 	Specialist referral Consider comorbidities Short-term aggressive treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wet wraps Hospitalization Phototherapy Systemic Immunosuppressants <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cyclosporine A Methotrexate Mycophenolate mofetil Azathioprine Dupilumab
	Flare	TCS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Low-to-medium potency PRN up to 15 days per month Monitor quantities 	TCS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium-to-high potency Consider complicating factors
		Other considerations	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-adherence Infection Misdiagnosis Contact allergy 	

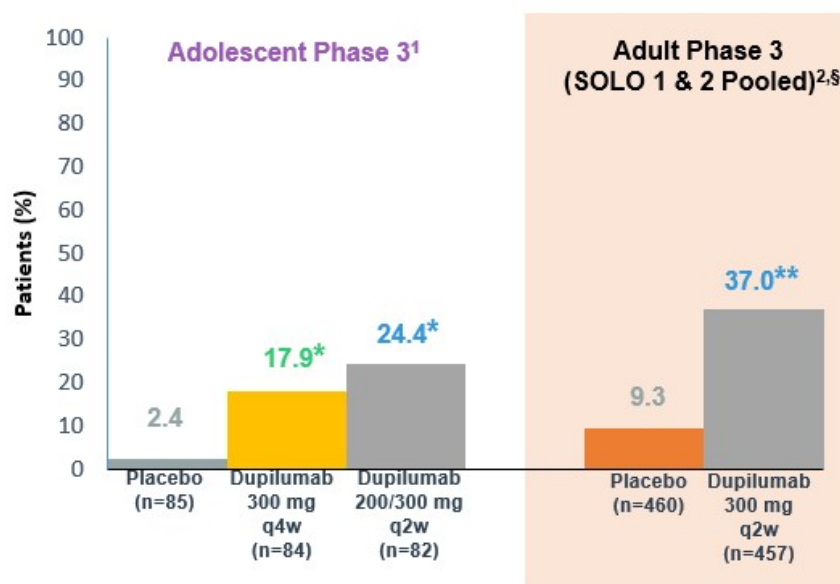
TCS, topical corticosteroid; TCI, topical calcineurin inhibitor

Adapted from Boguniewicz M, et al. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2018;120(1):10-22.

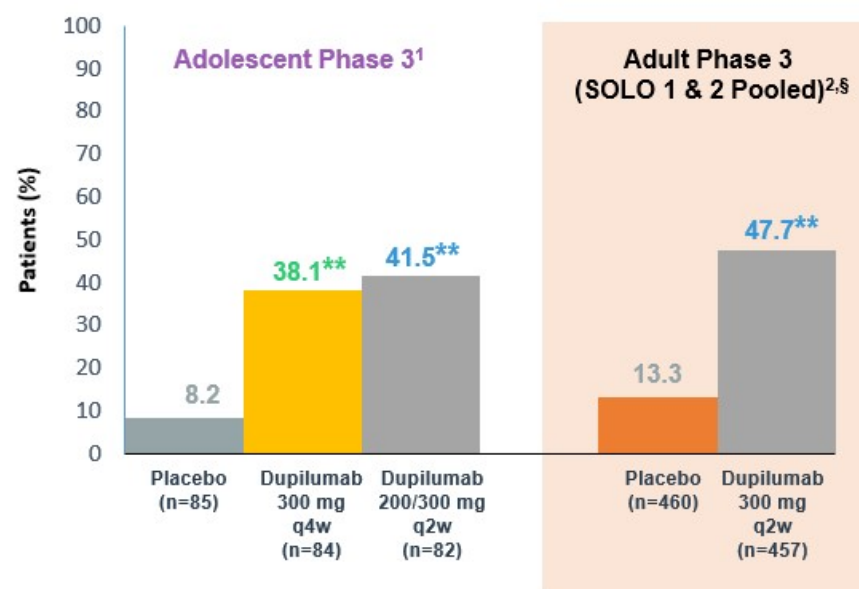


Dupilumab: Targeted Biologic Therapy; FDA-approved age ≥ 6

IGA 0 or 1 at Week 16



EASI-75 at Week 16



* $P < 0.001$ vs placebo, ** $P < 0.0001$ vs placebo.

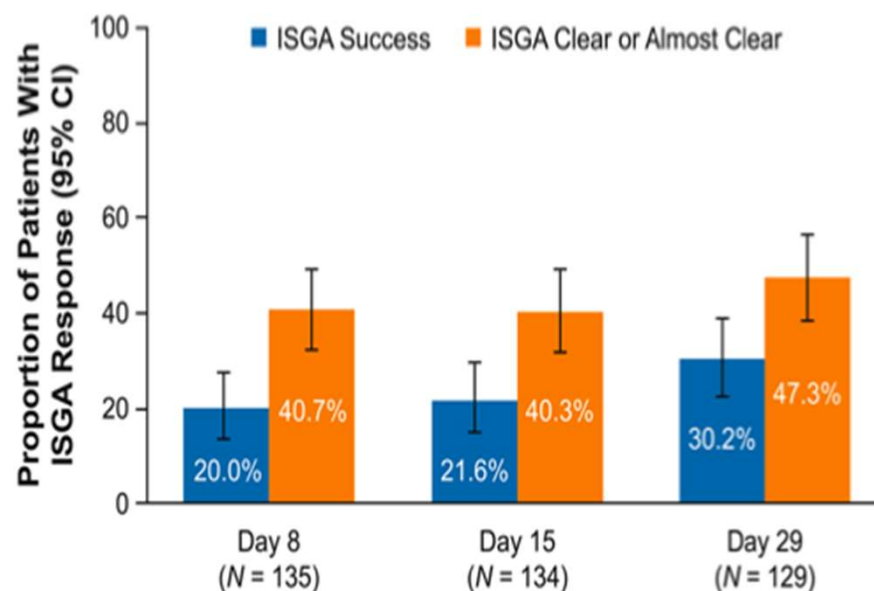
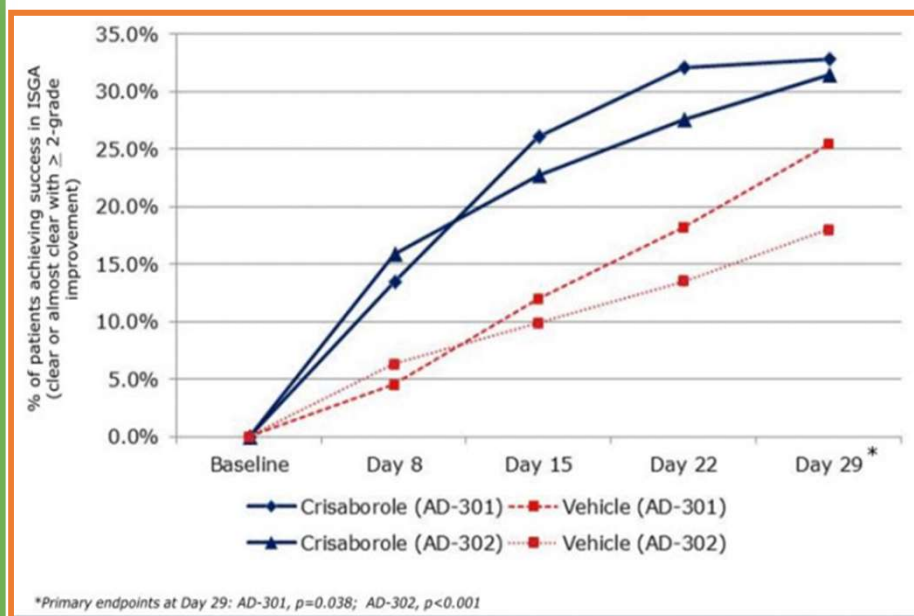
- Most common AEs: injection site reaction, conjunctivitis

[†]Patient considered non-responder after rescue treatment use. [‡]EASI-75 at week 16 was a coprimary endpoint outside of the US. [§]The primary endpoint in the SOLO 1 & 2 trials was IGA score 0 or 1 and ≥ 2 -point improvement from baseline at week 16. EASI-75, reduction of EASI (Eczema Area and Severity Index) score by at least 75% from baseline; IGA, Investigator's Global Assessment; q2w, every 2 weeks; q4w, every 4 weeks.

1. Simpson et al. Oral presentation D3T01.1L, EADV 2018. 2. Ferrándiz et al. Oral presentation FC07.09, EADV 2018.



Crisaborole: Topical PDF-4 Inhibitor FDA-approved Age ≥ 3 months



Most common AE: application-site pain/discomfort/erythema

Jarnagin K et al. *J Drugs Dermatol.* 2016;15:390-396. <http://leaddiscovery.blogspot.com/2015/07/anacor-reports-positive-phase-3-data-on.html>.
Schlessinger J, Shepard JS, Gower R, et al. Safety, Effectiveness, and Pharmacokinetics of Crisaborole in Infants Aged 3 to < 24 Months with Mild-to-Moderate Atopic Dermatitis: A Phase IV Open-Label Study (CrisADe CARE 1). *Am J Clin Dermatol.* 2020;21(2):275-284.



Investigational Therapies for Moderate-to-Severe AD

	Agent	Class	Phase
Monoclonal Antibodies	Tezepelumab	Anti-TSLP	2
	Fezakinumab	Anti-IL-22	2
	ISB-830	Anti-OX40	2
	Nemolizumab	Anti-IL-31R α	3
	Lebrikizumab	Anti-IL-13	3
	Tralokinumab	Anti-IL-13	3
Small Molecules	Upadacitinib	JAK 1 inhibitor	3
	Abrocitinib	JAK 1 inhibitor	3
	Baricitinib	JAK 1/2 inhibitor	3
	Adriforant	H4R antagonist	2



Optimizing Care Strategies



Recommendations are Often Conflicting and Confusing

1: To bathe or not to bathe?

2: Soap or no soap?

3: How strong a steroid can be used on face and folds?

4: Cream vs. ointment Rx?

5: Dietary restrictions/formula changes/IgE testing (and when?)

6: When to refer to dermatologist/allergist?



Video: Lisa



Practice Shared Decision-Making

Spend time listening to the patient and/or caregiver

Understand the patient's goals and expectations

Clarify current medications and which ones are succeeding or failing

Consider socioeconomic level and ability to adhere to treatment

Explain the nature and severity of the disease

Give treatment options, explaining the risks and benefits of each

Work to find the right treatment plan

Provide patient education materials and other support measures



Individualize Management

COMPLAINT	STRATEGY
Inconsistent recommendations	Clarify controversies
Confusing, unclear plan	Concise, written instructions (daily maintenance, intermittent flare control)
Medication phobia	Discuss relative risks of uncontrolled AD; emphasize skin care/trigger avoidance
Impact on family QOL	Better prevention; fast-acting flare plan
Impact on school performance	504 and other collaborative plans
Out-of-pocket expenses	Simple, safe, affordable products



Audience Response Question

True or false:

If a young infant develops chronic eczema, restrict dairy, peanut, egg, soy, seafood and wheat from a breastfeeding mother's diet and from early introduction of the infant's solid foods.

1. True
2. False



Audience Response Question

True or false:

If a young infant develops chronic eczema, restrict dairy, peanut, egg, soy, seafood and wheat from a breastfeeding mother's diet and from early introduction of the infant's solid foods.

1. True
2. False



Effective Topical Therapy Allays Food Allergy Concerns

Parents of children with AD often believe their child has a food allergy and the food causes AD.

- 95% of parents believed their child had food allergy that exacerbated AD
- 70% had positive food allergy tests; only 30% had history of immediate IgE reactions to food
- The level of concern about food reactions significantly decreased (from 7.7 to 4.0 on a 10 point scale; $P < 0.001$)
- Parental estimates of the number of food reactions pre- vs posttreatment declined 80% ($P = 0.001$) during effective topical therapy
 - Encouraged parents to refocus on direct skin care

N=23 children 3 to 11 years of age with chronic moderate to severe AD enrolled in a long-term study of topical tacrolimus, and their parents retrospectively assessed by questionnaire pretreatment and posttreatment about their AD and food allergy parameters.
Thompson MM, Hanifin JM. *J Amer Acad Dermatol.* 2005;53(2):S214-S219. Roerdink EM, et al. *Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol.* 2016;116(4):334-8. Manam S, et al. *Curr Opin Allergy Clin Immunol.* 2014;14(5):423-9.



NIAID Says Don't Change Maternal/Child Diet Without Proven Food Allergy

- In children <5 yo with moderate-to-severe AD, consider food allergy evaluation for milk, egg, peanuts, wheat, and soy if ≥ 1 of the following applies
 - Child has persistent AD despite optimized management and topical therapy
 - Child has a reliable history of an immediate reaction after ingestion of a specific food
- In patients without documented food allergy, it is not recommended to avoid allergenic foods to manage AD, asthma, or eosinophilic esophagitis



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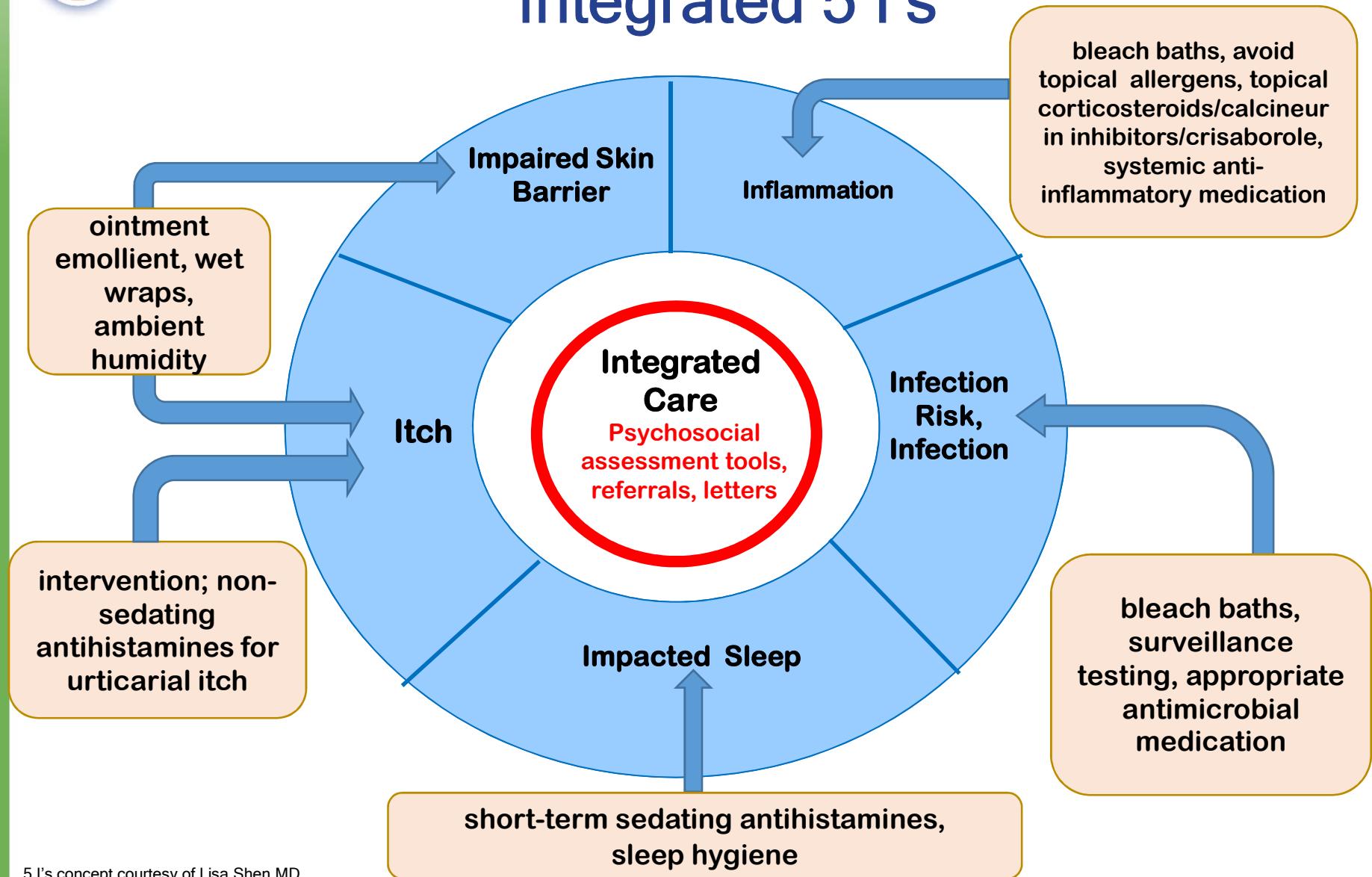


The AD Action Plan: As Clear & Comprehensive As Possible

- Plan summarizes all parts of skin care
- Baseline care never changes (or minor seasonal modifications)
- Flare vs maintenance therapy
- Most rapid improvement is seen when all aspects of skin care plan are done:
 - Consistently
 - At the same time



The AD Circle of Comprehensive Care: “Integrated 5 I’s”





First Step: Put Out the Fire





Putting Out the Fire

- 1) Aggressive skin care
 - Frequent bathing
 - Bland emollients
 - Higher potency topical medications
 - Wet wraps
- 2) Consider infection
- 3) Antihistamines for allergy triggers
- 4) Promote restful sleep
- 5) Itch intervention



Wraps



www.adrescuewear.com



<http://www.flyintheace.com/plastic%20mulch.html>





Itch Intervention

“Stop Scratching!” Doesn’t Work

Avoid Triggers

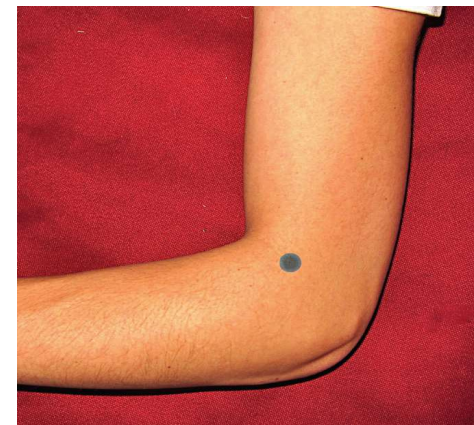
- Sweat
- Friction
- Microbes
- Low humidity

Skin Care Strategies

- Rinse/shower/bath
- Moisturizer
- Cold pack/cool compress
- Corticosteroid
- Wraps
- Squeeze or pat

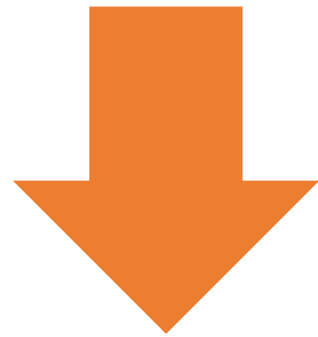
Distraction Strategies

- Fun
- Relaxation
- Delay scratching
- Acupressure





Second Step: Long-Term Control



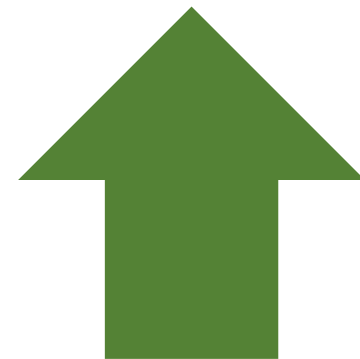
Proactive

- daily maintenance skin care
- recognize and avoid triggers



Reactive

- intermittent, insufficient medication use





Sample Plan for “Fire Prevention” *AD Maintenance*

- 1) Steroid maintenance plan if needed
- 2) Continue bland emollients
- 3) Continue wraps over emollient alone (optional)
- 4) Behavioral replacement for itch
- 5) Multidisciplinary team involvement





Optimizing Specialist-PCP Communication Helps Optimize Care

Diagnosis: The Critical Questions

Are complaints/symptoms consistent with AD diagnostic guidelines?

Is lesion location/presentation consistent with AD for the patient's age?

What treatments have been effective/not effective to date?

Skin biopsy or lab tests to rule out other causes?

Best Practices: Suggestions for Improving Communication/Collaboration

Follow up w/ severe pts in 2-4 weeks to assess efficacy; reinforce compliance

Telemedicine: improves access to patients and specialist input/triage

Consider increasing quality of life assessments (disturbed sleep, school, work)

Develop referral protocols with local dermatologists for truly urgent issues



Summary

- AD is chronic and challenging to treat, and often results in significant impairments in patient's quality of life.
- Diagnosis is based primarily on clinical findings, rather than genetics or biomarkers.
- Directions in the treatment AD:
 - Increased understanding of pathogenesis
 - Implementing the "Circle of Complete Care"
 - Proactive vs. reactive care
 - Expansion in treatment choices
- Treatment choices must take into account individual patient characteristics and patient preference.



Useful Resources

Society for Pediatric Dermatology: Educational Videos

<https://pedsderm.net/for-patients-families/patient-education-videos/>

American Academy of Dermatology: Learning Modules

<https://www.aad.org/education/basic-derm-curriculum/suggested-order-of-modules/atopic-dermatitis>

National Eczema Association:

- Educational Videos: <https://nationaleczema.org/videos/>
- Tools for School: <https://nationaleczema.org/tools-for-school/>



Thank You!

Questions/Answers