

HOPE FOR CHILDREN WITH ECZEMA

Today, Dr Kam-Lun Hon, will present on skin equipment used for assessing childhood eczema at the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) on the Gold Coast.

Childhood eczema is a distressing disease associated with impaired quality of life. The basic problem is skin dryness which affects the skin barrier and inflammation which is itchy and easily superinfected. It has a number of triggers some of which are easy to avoid and some of which are difficult to avoid, but it is not an allergy.

Dr Hon says: “Symptoms and severity of eczema can be objectively measured with equipment. My study aimed to compare skin measurements and investigate their connections with various clinical severity scores.”

Skin hydration, water loss, pH, redness, pigmentation and type were measured and connected with short and long term subjective and objective scores.

The study concluded that skin pH, hydration and water loss connected well with various clinical symptom scores and less acidic pH appears to be associated with worse clinical scores of symptoms and increased usage of topical antibiotics.

Associate Professor Gayle Fischer, dermatologist with the ACD, says: “There is significant impact on quality of life, but despite this parents and doctors are commonly too scared to use appropriate treatment. Emollients are key to control skin dryness and restore the skin barrier, and in all but the mildest cases, topical corticosteroids must be used.”

Dr Hon says: “Further research is needed to demonstrate if maintaining more acidic skin and avoiding alkaline soap and emollient products may be associated with less severe eczema.”

ENDS

Links to further information

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About the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD):

The ACD is the peak medical college accredited by the Australian Medical Council for the training and professional development of medical practitioners in the specialty of dermatology. They provide authoritative information about dermatology to Government, the media, other health professionals and the general public.



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

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