

ITCHY AUSTRALIANS

Today, Associate Professor Saxon Smith, will present on the Australian case of atopic dermatitis at the Australasian College of Dermatologists (ACD) Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) on the Gold Coast.

Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a common, chronic, relapsing inflammatory skin disease that has significant negative impact on health-related quality of life, mood and sleep, work productivity, and everyday activities.

A/Prof Smith says: “Recent literature cites a lack of data, particularly with regard to long-term safety and efficacy of current systemic treatments. Research into the use of biologic drugs in the management of AD continues to develop and recent international updates and recommendations have been published; however, they are yet to be made available in the Australian setting.”

Together with four other ACD dermatologists and one clinical immunologist, A/Prof Smith was part of a study that reviewed the literature, examined clinical questions of relevance to Australian health care practitioners and produced recommendation statements.

Associate Professor Christopher Baker, who was also a part of the study, says: This consensus aims to provide evidence-based insights and practical advice on the management of AD in Australia. In this way we hope to improve health outcomes for all Australians.”

The study focussed on the four key areas of:

1. Current consensus on the prevalence, pathophysiology, and burden of AD
2. Establishment of criteria for severity classification and treatment goals
3. How best to apply these criteria to an algorithm encompassing current and future management options
4. Practical aspects of the management framework including comorbidities and multidisciplinary team involvement.

A/Prof Smith says: “The study concluded that dermatologists and immunologists have a range of treatment options available to find the best fit for most adults who suffer from AD; and we look to the future for more opportunities for our patients.”

ENDS

Links to further information

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THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE
OF DERMATOLOGISTS

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.

Media enquiries:

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