



Improving People's Lives Through Innovations in Personalized Health Care

## Allergic Skin Disorders and HAE

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# Disclosures

- Dr. Martin has no relevant financial relationships to disclose.



# Objectives

- At the end of this presentation, the participant will have reviewed the recognition and treatment of allergic skin disorders, to include:
  1. Urticaria and Angioedema
  2. Hereditary Angioedema
  3. Atopic Dermatitis
  4. Allergic Contact Dermatitis



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# Urticaria and Angioedema



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# Urticaria/Angioedema

- Urticaria
  - Pruritic, erythematous, cutaneous elevations that blanch with pressure, indicating the presence of dilated blood vessels and edema
- Angioedema
  - Similar pathologic alterations in deep dermis and subcutaneous tissue; swelling is predominant manifestation, little or no pruritis; may be painful or burning



# Angioedema

- Unlike other forms of edema
  - Not characteristically in dependent areas
  - asymmetrically distributed
  - transient
- Often seen with urticaria



# Urticaria

- Acute vs chronic
  - Urticaria that exceeds 6 weeks is arbitrarily designated chronic
- Dermagraphism
  - Ability to write on skin: 2-5% of population
  - Only small fraction warrant chronic treatment with antihistamines



**The EAACI/WAO Guideline**

**The AAAAI/ACAAI Guideline**

Basic treatment: Avoidance of triggers and relevant physical factors if physical urticaria/angioedema is present.

STEP 1

Monotherapy with sgAH

Monotherapy with sgAH

If inadequate control: After 2-4 weeks or earlier, if symptoms are intolerable

assess for patient's tolerance and efficacy

STEP 2

Increase sgAH dose (up to 4x)

- One or more of the following:
- Dose advancement of sgAH used in Step 1
  - Add another sgAH
  - Add H<sub>2</sub>-antagonist
  - Add LTRA
  - Add fgAH to be taken at bedtime

If inadequate control: After 2-4 weeks or earlier, if symptoms are intolerable

assess for patient's tolerance and efficacy

STEP 3

Add on to sgAH: Omalizumab

Dose advancement of potent antihistamine (e.g. hydroxyzine or doxepin) as tolerated

If inadequate control: Within 6 months or earlier, if symptoms are intolerable

assess for patient's tolerance and efficacy

STEP 4

Add on to sgAH: Ciclosporin\*

- Add an alternative agent
- Omalizumab or cyclosporine\*
  - other anti-inflammatory agents, immunosuppressants, or biologics



# Urticaria Guidelines

- Relatively new Urticaria Guidelines have been published
  - **First line treatment** of Chronic Spontaneous Urticaria is 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation antihistamines
  - **Second line treatment** is to increase antihistamine dose
    - Often to 2 to 4 times recommended dose
    - US:
      - May add another 2<sup>nd</sup> gen antihistamine
      - May add H2-antagonist
      - May add LTRA
      - May add 1<sup>st</sup> gen antihistamine at bedtime
  - **Third line**, there is disagreement between US and European/WAO guidelines
    - US: dose advancement of potent (1<sup>st</sup> gen) antihistamines
    - European: Add on omalizumab
  - **Fourth line**
    - US: omalizumab or cyclosporine
    - European: Add on cyclosporine
- **Not present: corticosteroids**



# CASE 1: MJ

- 42 y/o w/m with CC: “wheals” x 2 months
  - Itching
  - 1st episode: No lifestyle changes
  - Doctors didn’t help
    - Benadryl, Claritin, Tavist w/o relief
    - Lab work, x-rays normal
- PE: 0.5-5 cm urticarial lesions



# Urticaria



# Urticaria

- Papules and plaques:
  - pruritic
  - erythematous
  - edematous
  - blanchable
  - 1mm to several cm in diameter
  - last < 24 hours



# Urticaria Evaluation History

- Duration - < or > 6 weeks
- Triggers – identifiable cause more likely in acute but < 5% in chronic
  - ingestants, contactants, physical stimuli, infections
- Lesional hx
  - duration, purpura, pain
  - refer to Dermatology if suspected vasculitis for Bx
- **PMH/ROS suggestive of systemic disease**



# Physical Urticaria

- Dermatographism
- Cholinergic
- Cold
- Delayed pressure urticaria/angioedema
- Solar
- Vibratory
- Aquagenic



# Ice cube test

- Cold Urticaria



Similar images have been on the board in the past.



# What's this?

Again, similar images have been on past board exams





# Urticaria Evaluation Labs

- Skin tests
  - Seldom indicated
  - Of questionable value
    - can't get the patient off antihistamines
    - many patients have dermatographism
  - Most urticaria is **not** triggered by food or aeroallergens
- Labs as indicated by Hx/PE (look for underlying cause – Not routine)
  - TSH, CBC, LFT's, ESR, ANA, C4
- Skin Biopsy as indicated by History



# Urticaria Differential Diagnosis

## Other pruritic skin conditions

- Urticarial vasculitis
- Viral exanthema
- Contact dermatitis
- Parasites
- Liver disease
- SLE
- Malignancy



# Urticaria Pigmentosa

- Persistent pigmented macular lesions
- Darier's sign
- Adult cases more likely to progress to systemic disease



# Mastocytosis

- Excessive Mast cells
- Four classifications
  - indolent
  - with hematologic abnormalities
  - aggressive
  - mast cell leukemia
- Multiple organ involvement
  - BM, GI, liver, skin, long bones



# Urticarial Vasculitis

- Necrotizing vasculitis
  - endothelial cell edema
  - perivascular PMN infiltrate
  - fibrinoid deposits in venules
  - leukocytoclasia - nuclear debris
- Last > 24 hours
- Painful and leave purpura/bruising with resolution



# Angioedema

- 10-20% of the population
- 94% of cases are drug induced
  - ACEI
  - NSAIDS
  - Others
- Hereditary
- Autoimmune acquired
  - very rare, < 50 case reports



# Angioedema

- Non-pitting edema
- Occurs deeper than urticaria
- Overlying skin is usually normal
- Usually burns and is not pruritic



# ACEI Induced Angioedema

- 1-2 cases per 1000 persons
- >70% symptomatic within first week of therapy
- Likely precipitated by increased bradykinin
  - Angiotensin II inhibits bradykinin
    - ACEI blocks conversion of angiotensin I → II
    - Vasodilatation, increased vascular permeability
- Can lead to life-threatening upper airway obstruction
  - 22% require intubation with 11% mortality
- Rare in Angiotensin II receptor blockers





# Hereditary Angioedema

- Rare (1/150,000)
- Autosomal dominant
- Onset in adolescence
- Angioedema is
  - painless and non-pruritic
  - lasts 3-5 days
  - unresponsive to Epi, antihistamines, pred.
  - triggered by mild trauma



# Hereditary Angioedema

- C1 Inhibitor (C1-INH) deficiency
  - Type I (85%)
    - Quantitative deficiency (5-30% normal)
  - Type II (15%)
    - Qualitative deficiency
    - Quantity is normal or elevated
    - Functional activity is markedly reduced
  - Type III
    - Unknown cause
    - C1q, C1-INH, C4 normal with suggestive history
    - C4, C1-INH normal during attack



# Hereditary Angioedema

- C4 and C2 markedly low
  - both between and during attacks
  - **C4 is screening test**
- Autosomal dominant inheritance
- Symptoms related to subcutaneous and/or submucosal edema
- C1 normal
  - Low C1 consider acquired form
    - Lymphoma
    - Low C4, C2 and C3



# Acquired Angioedema

- Very rare
- Present in adults
- CLL, NHL, cryoglobulinemia, Waldenstrom macroglobulinemia, myeloma
- Decreased C4 like in HAE
- Decreased C1q which distinguishes HAE from AAE



# HAE vs AAE

DZ	C1 INH Quant	C1 INH Activity	C1q	C4
HAE I	Low	Low	NL	Low
HAE II	NL	Low	NL	Low
AAE I	Low	Low	Low	Low
AAE II	Low/NL	Low	Low	Low



# HAE Treatments

## ■ Prophylaxis

- Cinryze: IV; C1-esterase inhibitor
- Haegarda: SC; C1-esterase inhibitor
- Takhzyro: SC; plasma Kallikrein inhibitor (monoclonal antibody)

## ■ Acute

- Berinert: IV; C1-inhibitor concentrate. Approved for self-administration
- Ruconest: IV; Plasma free recombinant C1-inhibitor concentrate. Approved for self administration
- Firazyr: SC; B2 bradykinin receptor antagonist. Approved for self-administration
- Kalbitor: SC; kallikrein inhibitor. Must be administered by healthcare professional



# Atopic Dermatitis



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# Atopic Dermatitis

Atopic Dermatitis is a characteristic cutaneous inflammatory condition that typically occurs in individuals with a personal or family history of atopy.

Atopic Dermatitis (AD) is a chronic, relapsing, inflammatory skin manifestation of the *Atopic Triad*.

Incidence of AD is increasing in all industrialized nations.





# Clinical features

## Acute atopic dermatitis

- No primary lesion
- Intensely pruritic
- Erythematous papules associated with excoriations, vesiculations, and serous exudate

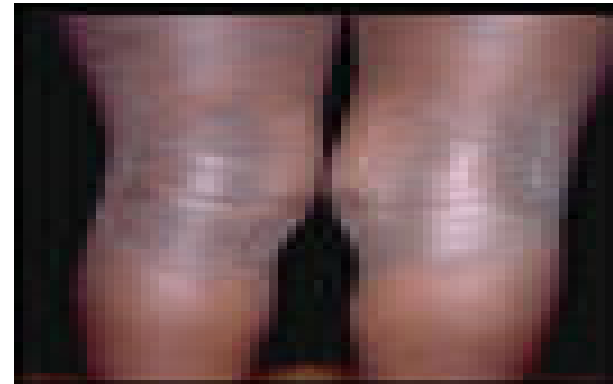


# Clinical features

## Chronic atopic dermatitis

### *Lichenification*

- Extensor surfaces during infancy
- Flexural surfaces during childhood and adult years



# 2018 Atopic Dermatitis Yardstick

	Non-lesional	Mild	Moderate	Severe
<b>Maintenance Treatment</b>	<p><b>BASIC MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>1. Skin Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moisturizer, liberal and frequent (choice per patient preference)</li> <li>Warm baths or showers using non-soap cleansers, usually once daily and followed by moisturizer (even on clear areas)</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Trigger Avoidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proven allergens and common irritants (eg, soaps, wool, temperature extremes)</li> <li>Consider comorbidities</li> </ul>	<p><b>BASIC MANAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>1. Skin Care</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Moisturizer, liberal and frequent (choice per patient preference)</li> <li>Warm baths or showers using non-soap cleansers, usually once daily and followed by moisturizer (even on clear areas)</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Antiseptic Measures</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dilute bleach bath (or equivalent) <math>\leq 2x/week</math> according to severity (especially with recurrent infections)</li> <li>Antibiotics, if needed</li> </ul> <p><b>3. Trigger Avoidance</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proven allergens and common irritants (eg, soaps, wool, temperature extremes)</li> <li>Consider comorbidities</li> </ul>	<p><b>BASIC MANAGEMENT + TOPICAL ANTI-INFLAMMATORY MEDICATION</b></p> <p><i>Apply on areas of previous or potential symptoms (aka flare)</i></p> <p><b>Maintenance TCS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low potency 1x-2x daily (including face)</li> <li>Medium potency 1x-2x weekly (except face)</li> </ul> <p><b>OR Maintenance TCI (pimecrolimus, tacrolimus)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1x-2x daily</li> <li>2x-3x weekly (not an indicated dosage)</li> </ul> <p><b>OR Crisaborole 2%<sup>1</sup></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2x daily</li> </ul>	<p><b>BASIC MANAGEMENT + REFERRAL to AD Specialist</b></p> <p>Phototherapy</p> <p>Dupilumab<sup>2</sup></p> <p><b>Systemic Immunosuppressants</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cyclosporine A<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Methotrexate<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Mycophenolate mofetil<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Azathioprine<sup>3</sup></li> <li>Corticosteroids<sup>4</sup></li> </ul> <p><b>Consider acute tx for some patients to help gain control:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wet wrap therapy</li> <li>Short-term hospitalization</li> </ul>
<b>Acute Treatment</b>	<p><b>Apply TCS to Inflamed Skin</b></p> <p>Low to medium potency TCS 2x daily for 3-7 days beyond clearance [Consider TCI, crisaborole]</p>		<p><b>Apply TCS to Inflamed Skin</b></p> <p>Medium to high potency TCS 2x daily for 3-7 days beyond clearance [Consider TCI, crisaborole]</p> <p><b>If not Resolved in 7 Days, Consider</b> </p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-adherence</li> <li>Infection</li> <li>Misdiagnosis</li> <li>Contact allergy to medications</li> <li>Referral</li> </ul>

Boguniewicz M, Fonacier L, Guttman-Yassky E, Ong PY, Silverberg J, Farrar JR. Atopic Dermatitis Yardstick: Practical recommendations for an evolving therapeutic landscape. Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2018 Jan; 120(1):10-22

# Diagnostic Features of AD Clinical

## Essential

- Atopy
  - Personal Hx / FHx of Eczema, hay fever, asthma.
- Pruritus
- Eczema
  - Acute
  - Subacute
  - Chronic



# Genetics of AD

- Atopy is the result of a complex interaction of multiple genes, and does not fit a simple autosomal dominant model
- 81% of the offspring of two parents with AD will develop AD, 60% when one parent has AD and the other has respiratory allergies, 56% when one parent is atopic.



# Attributes of AD

## I. Atopy

- Polygenic immunologic aberrations
- Th1 / Th2 imbalance (transitory)
- Increased IgE antibody production
- Eosinophilia
- Hyper-releasable basophils (& mast cells)
- Increased E-selectin, VCAM-1, and ICAM levels



# Attributes of AD

## II. *Pruritus*

- Probably the “primary” symptom of AD
- Mildest mechanical stimulation of atopic skin is perceived as “itch”
- *Alloknesis* - once itching has started, the likelihood of the surrounding skin to itch increases
- Questionably induced by histamine  
(Antihistamines minimally effective)



# Triggers of Itch for AD

- Irritants
  - Wool
  - Soaps / detergents
  - Disinfectants
  - “Occupational”
  - Tobacco smoke
- Xerosis (Dry skin)
- Microbial agents
  - *S. aureus*
  - Viral infection
  - ? Dermatophytes
- Heat / Sweating
- Contactants including dust mites
- Psychological
- Foods (IgE-induced) & those having vasodilatory properties
- Aeroallergens
- Hormones
- Climate





# Attributes of AD

## III. “Eczema”

- An “isomorphic” response to trauma (i.e. scratching and/or rubbing) with the distribution restricted to those areas
- Must be differentiated from all the “other” eczemas
- “Polymorphic” can appear as acute, sub-acute, and/or chronic
- “Excoriated”
- Chronic, or chronically relapsing

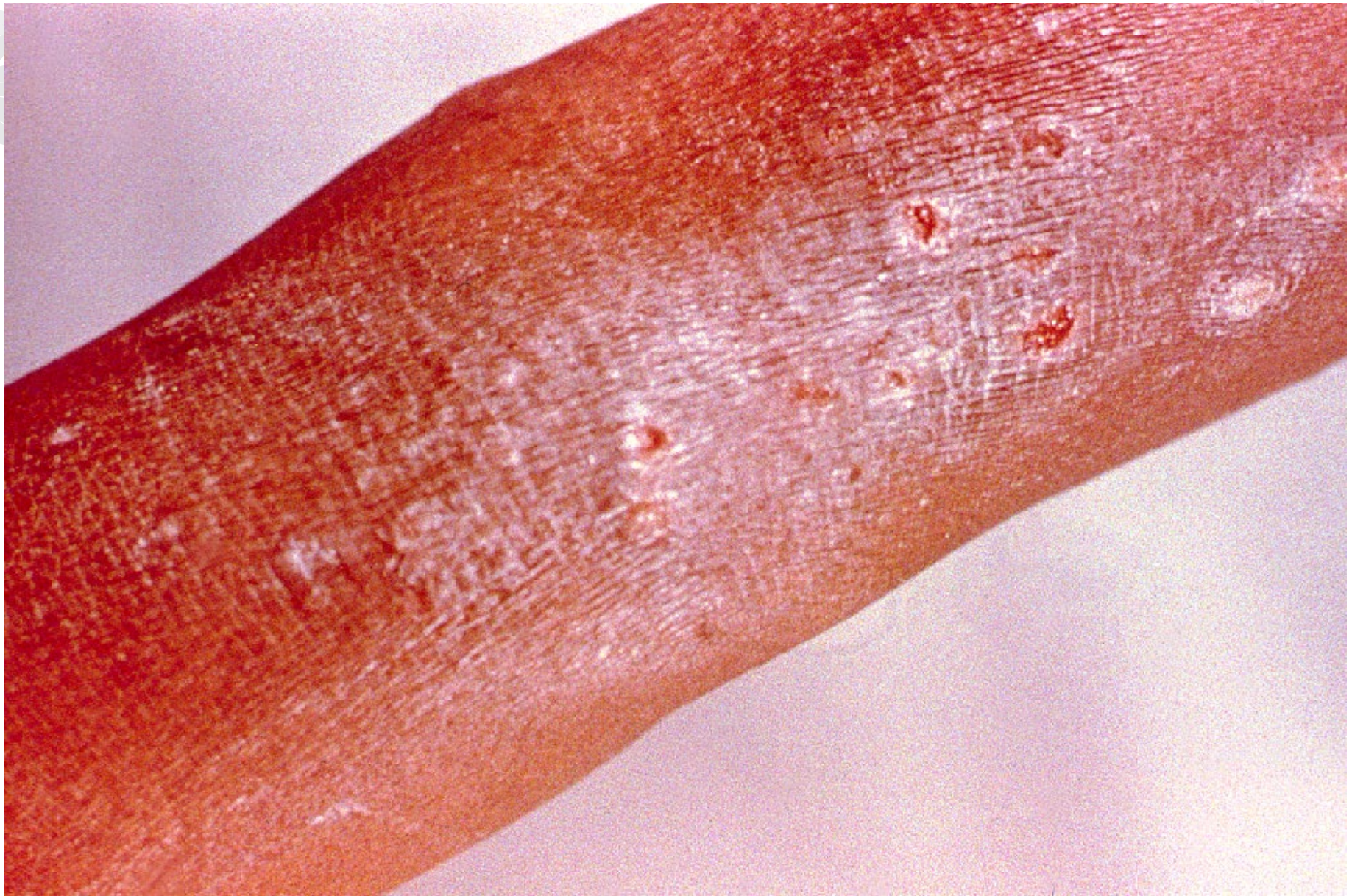


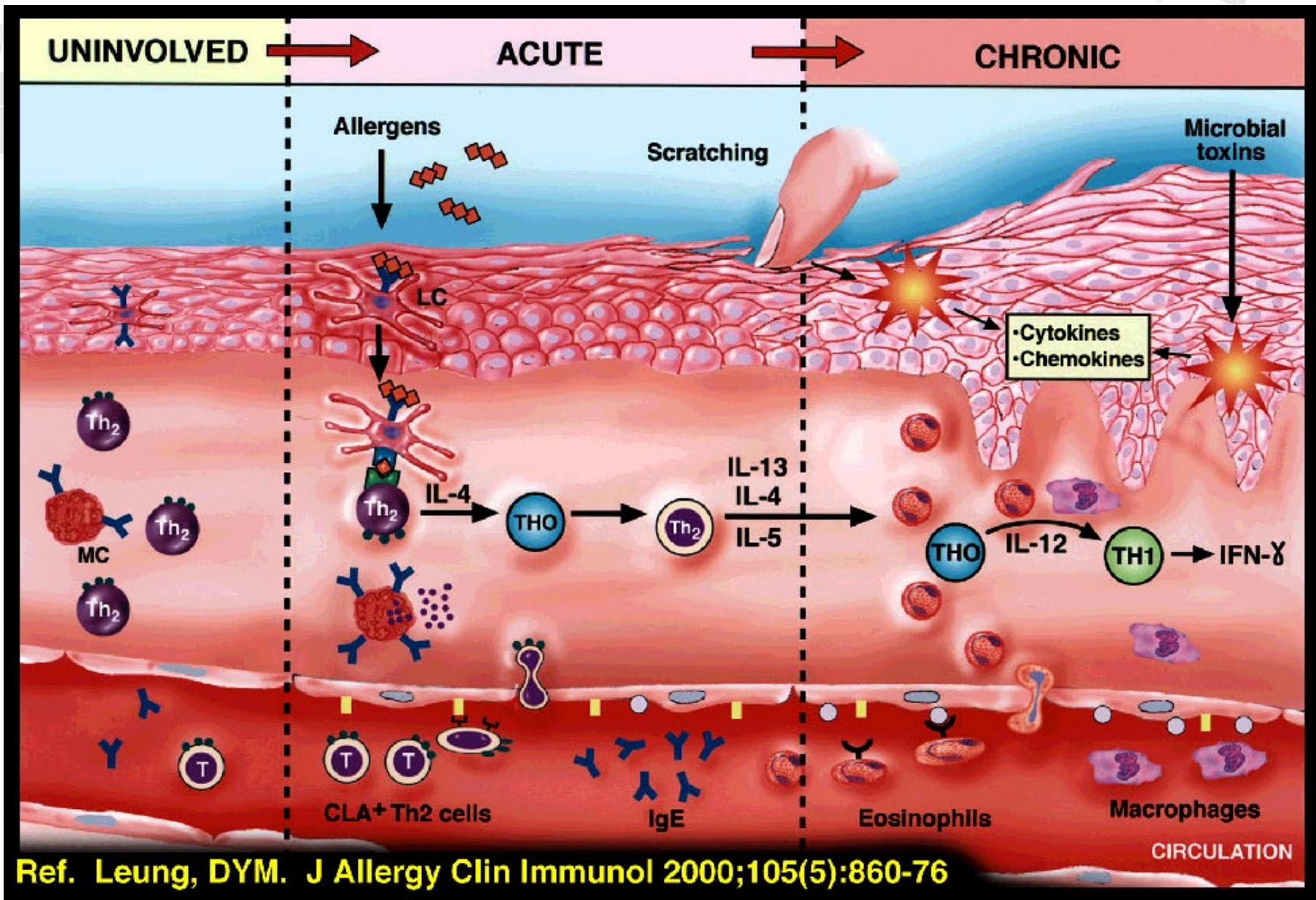
# Differential Diagnosis of Adult Eczematous Eruptions

- Allergic Contact Dermatitis
- Irritant Contact Dermatitis
- Seborrheic Dermatitis
- Cutaneous T-cell Lymphoma
- Psoriasiform eruptions
- Pityriasis rubra pilaris
- Scabies
- Glucogonoma Syndrome
- Pellagra









Ref. Leung, DYM. J Allergy Clin Immunol 2000;105(5):860-76

# Diagnosis of AD

- History and physical examination
- Laboratory - (*never* routine)
  - Serum IgE level
  - Serum test for allergen-specific IgE (CAP-RAST)
  - Skin Biopsy
  - Skin culture (bacterial, viral, fungal)
  - Patch test (corticosteroids, aeroallergens)
- Prick skin test - (*never* routine)



# Complications of AD

- Secondary Infection
  - a) bacterial
    - impetiginization
    - “super-antigenicity”
  - b) viral
    - localized – verruca, molluscum, herpes
    - systemic – Kaposi’s herpetiform eruption
  - c) mycotic
    - Dermatophyte
    - Candidal











# Natural History of AD

- 60% of patients develop AD by 1 year of age
- 85% of patients develop AD by age 5
- Earlier onset often indicates a more severe course
- Many cases resolve by age 2, improvement by puberty is common
- 80% of occupational skin disease occur in atopics
- It is rare to see AD after age 50
- 50% - 60% of patients develop respiratory “allergies”



# Managing AD (Preventative)

- Carefully eliminate all the triggers of itch
  - a) environmental, occupational, and temperature control
  - b) bathing - NO SOAP ON ECZEMA
  - c) lubrication
- Prevent “scratching” or rubbing
  - a) apply cold compresses to itchy skin



# Managing AD (Therapeutic)

- Topical anti-inflammatory agents
  - a) corticosteroids (ointments > creams)  
more potent - when “acute”  
least potent needed for “chronic”
  - b) Tacrolimus 0.1% ointment
  - c) Ultra Violet Light
  - d) Tar preparations



# Managing AD (Therapeutic)

- **Systemic**

- a) **antibiotics**

- b) **anti-inflammatory drugs**

- I. **Prednisone**

- II. **Cyclosporine A**

- c) **antihistamines (?)**



# “Take-home” Message

**Atopic dermatitis has a profound impact on the social, personal, emotional and financial perspectives of afflicted families.**



21 year old with itchy rash.  
Worse in winter and summer.  
Worried about food allergies.  
Presented for diagnosis and therapy.





# Your patient with the this rash should be treated with?

- A. topical antibiotics
  - B. topical corticosteroids
  - C. oral steroids
  - D. dapsons
  - E. famciclovir
- 
- Ans:



# Your patient with the this rash should be treated with?

- A. topical antibiotics
  - B. topical corticosteroids
  - C. oral steroids
  - D. dapsons
  - E. famciclovir
- 
- Ans: B

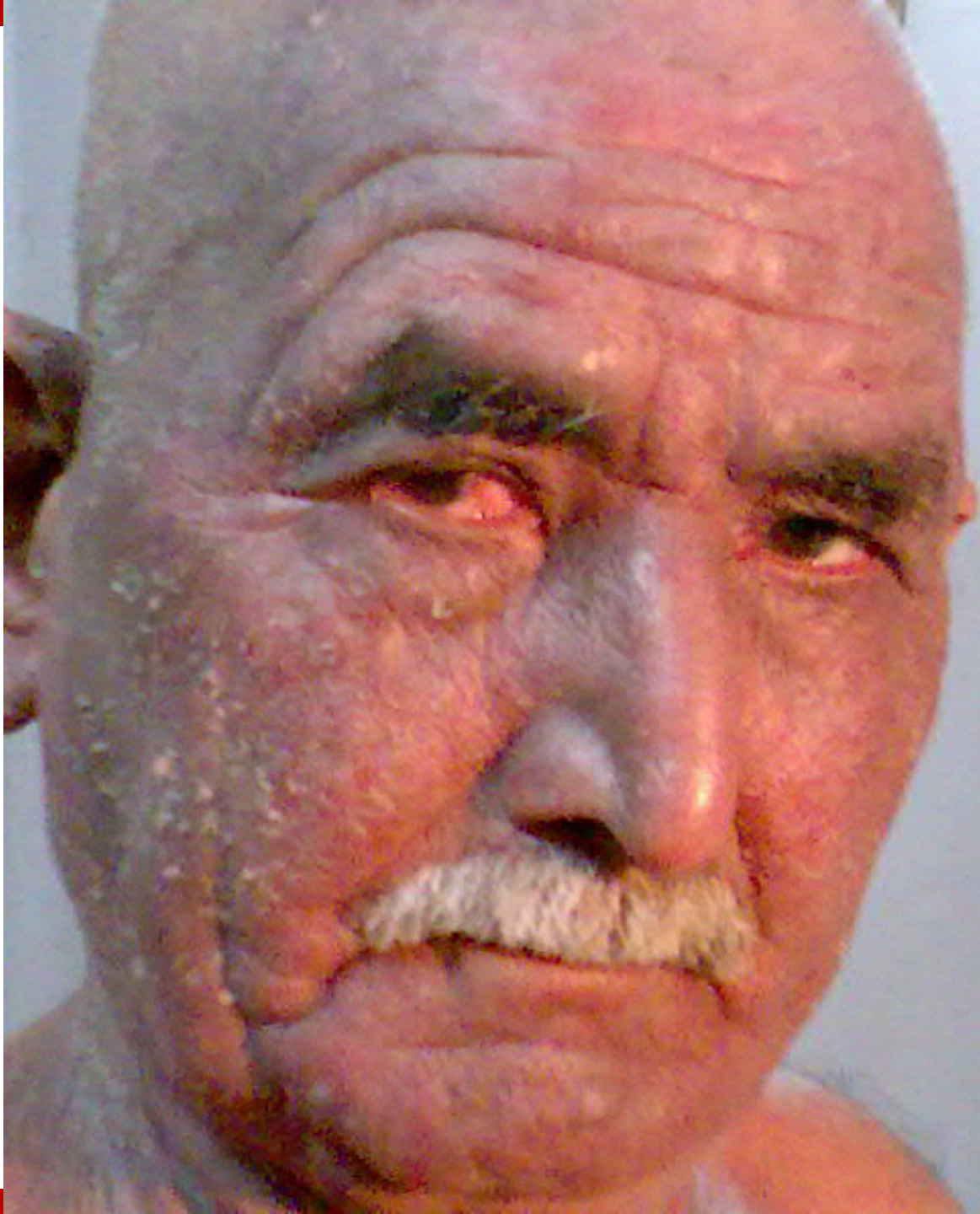




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# Atopic Dermatitis

- Adults - flexure areas, hands
- Eyes- think atopic keratoconjunctivitis
- Exacerbations – think Staph or Herpes simplex
- Anergy: decreased TH-1 cell and decreased interferon predispose to skin infections
- increase IgE, IL<sub>4</sub>, IL<sub>5</sub>, GM-CSF, IL<sub>13</sub>,  
(lymphocytes T helper type 2 phenotype)
- Filaggrin gene defect is very important
- Rx - lubricants, topical steroids, pimecrolimus and tacrolimus and phosphodiesterase 4 inhibitor





# IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TOPICAL CORTICOSTEROID THERAPY

- Potency- ointments > creams > lotions
- Limit use of high potency on face, breasts and genitals
- Skin side effects
  - Atrophy
  - Telangiectasia
  - Striae
  - Perioral dermatitis



# TOPICAL IMMUNE MODULATORS

- Tacrolimus (Protopic) ointment
- Pimecrolimus (Elidel) cream
  
- Derived from fungal polypeptides and Inhibit T-lymphocyte activation
- Potent immunosuppressive if given systemically
- Slow acting anti-inflammatory
- Great substitute for potent steroids on face
- Questionable risk of lymphoma with chronic use



# TOPICAL IMMUNE MODULATORS (Tacrolimus (Protopic) ointment Pimecrolimus (Elidel) cream)

- Effective in childhood and adult AD
- No skin atrophy / steroid side effects
- Stinging and burning at initiation of therapy
- Slight increase in skin infections ?
- ? Risk of neoplasms?
- Long-term safety seems safe





20 year old male with isolated itchy rash below. WHAT IS THIS?



# The preferred test to exclude the diagnosis is?

- A. Patch testing
  - B. Delayed hypersensitivity intradermal skin testing
  - C. IgE mediated skin tests
  - D. No testing is effective
- 
- Answer:



# The preferred test to exclude the diagnosis is?

- A. Patch testing
  - B. Delayed hypersensitivity intradermal skin testing
  - C. IgE mediated skin tests
  - D. No testing is effective
- 
- Answer: A



# Allergic Contact Dermatitis

- Type 4 cell mediated reaction with T-helper-type 1- lymphocytes
- delayed 48 hours
- Rhus is the best example
- patch test for diagnosis
- nickel, rubber additives (latex), thimerosal (eye gtt), benzocaine, neomycin, topical doxepin
- Rx - avoidance, topical steroids, or 2 weeks of oral steroids

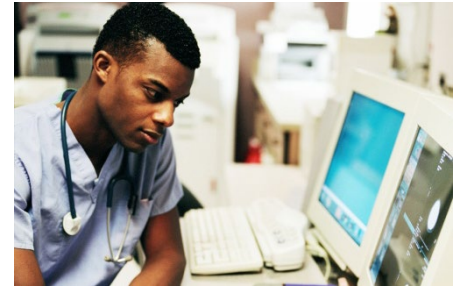








# GOOD LUCK ON THE EXAMS



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