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Atopic Dermatitis Media Factsheet

About atopic dermatitis

Atopic dermatitis is a common, chronic, and flaring inflammatory skin disease, characterized by persistent itch and recurrent skin lesions.[1-3]

It affects more than 230 million people worldwide and is the most common inflammatory skin disease, impacting almost four times more people than psoriasis.[2,4]

- Approximately 7% of adults in the United States have atopic dermatitis.[5]
- Up to 17% of adults in Europe are diagnosed with atopic dermatitis each year.[6]

Burden of disease

Atopic dermatitis has a **significant negative impact** on quality of life; studies in adults living with moderate-to-severe disease have shown that:[7-10]

74% reported itch as among their top two most problematic symptoms

A majority report experiencing **sleep disturbance** – considered one of the major factors leading to impaired quality of life

Patients had a **higher risk of developing mental health disorders**, including anxiety, depression, cognitive dysfunction, and suicidal ideation

39% reported that the disease caused them to avoid social interaction

"Patients with atopic dermatitis will certainly complain about the lesions on their skin, but itch is their most burdensome symptom. The constant urge to scratch impacts their ability to sleep and really disrupts their daily life."

Prof. Jonathan Silverberg
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George Washington University
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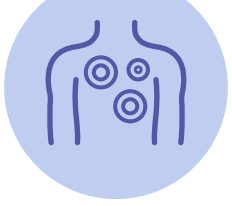
The role of IL-31 in atopic dermatitis

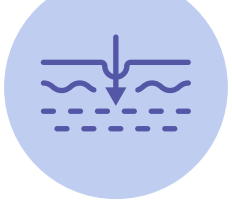
Interleukin-31 (IL-31) is a neuroimmune cytokine known to drive multiple symptoms of atopic dermatitis – including itch.[11-13]

In people with atopic dermatitis, IL-31 acts as a bridge between the immune and nervous systems, driving inflammation, itch, and skin barrier disruption, by:[2,11,13]

Directly stimulating sensory nerves related to itch, triggering their growth[13]



Activating immune cells and amplifying circuits between skin, nerve, and immune cells, resulting in inflammation[13]



Inhibiting the expression of filaggrin leading to **skin barrier dysfunction**[13]

Inhibition of IL-31 signaling has been shown to improve itch, inflammation, and skin barrier disruption in atopic dermatitis.[11,13]

The unmet need

While currently available treatments for atopic dermatitis show some improvements of signs and symptoms, **not all patients experience itch relief and clearer skin** to the same degree and **many do not respond optimally to approved therapies**.[14]

For this reason, **there is a need for novel, safe, fast-acting, and effective treatments that directly address the underlying disease mechanisms.**[14,15]

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