

The IUPUI Signature Center for Atopic Dermatitis

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Abstract

Atopic dermatitis is a chronic inflammatory skin disease characterized by dry skin, hypersensitivity to irritants and allergens, and significant pruritus. Atopic dermatitis is commonly associated with other atopic diseases including asthma, allergic rhinitis, and gastrointestinal disorders including eosinophilic esophagitis. Though a very common disease, there exists much misinformation and controversy/conflict in both the lay and medical communities about its pathogenesis and treatment, resulting in suboptimal care for the atopic dermatitis patient. Thus, education of both clinicians and lay public is needed. Inasmuch as atopic dermatitis is considered a systemic disorder, the optimal management should entail a multidisciplinary approach. Finally, research into the mechanisms by which atopic dermatitis occurs is needed to improve treatment of this common and quite debilitating disorder. *The objective of the IUPUI Signature Center for Atopic Dermatitis is to provide optimal patient care, education and research in atopic dermatitis for the citizens of the state of Indiana.* The Atopic Dermatitis has three separate components. First, we have developed an Atopic Dermatitis Working Group (ADWG) consisting of clinicians and scientists who meet on a monthly basis to disseminate information about research ideas/trials, and discuss topics and present difficult patients. Second, we have developed a monthly multidisciplinary AD clinic which has attracted the most challenging AD patients. Finally, we have developed infrastructure to assist in clinical and basic science research projects involving AD. Altogether, the IUPUI Signature Center for AD has been very successful as measured by the numbers of clinicians, researchers and patients who have been impacted by its presence.