

Reports on Scientific Meetings

Management of Facial Eczema in Infants and Children: the Controversies, Strategies and Safety Concerns

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Management of facial eczema in infants and children: the controversies, strategies and safety concerns

Speaker: Thomas Luger
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Atopic dermatitis (AD) commonly affects infants and young children. As it has a high impact on quality of life, it is vital to start treatment early. Although topical corticosteroids (TCSs) are often prescribed, non-corticosteroid treatments are also important because compliance with TCSs is poor due to concerns about their side effects. The speaker introduced topical calcineurin inhibitors (TCIs) as an alternative to TCSs. Topical calcineurin inhibitors selectively inhibit activation of T cells and mast cells, suppressing inflammatory cytokines and other mediators of allergic inflammatory reaction. They also restore

the skin barrier and may be considered as long-term treatment of AD.

The speaker conducted a study, named Petite Study. This was a five-year multicentre, open-label, parallel group trial in which infants with mild-to-moderate AD were randomised to treatment with pimecrolimus 1% cream or low to medium potency TCSs at the first signs or symptoms of AD. The speakers found that pimecrolimus was an effective and safe non-corticosteroid therapy for AD management which may be of particular value for patients who are taking corticosteroids to treat their comorbidities. He remarked that pimecrolimus may be the treatment of choice for mild-to-moderate AD, not only in infants but also in children and adults.

Learning points:

It is vital to treat atopic dermatitis effectively from the beginning. Pimecrolimus may be considered the alternative treatment of choice for mild-to-moderate AD in infants and children.