Skin Disorders

They assessed itching, erythema, scaling, and dryness, as defined by the American Academy of Dermatology. Associates at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Academy of Dermatology presented results of a poster by Dr. B. Eberlein-Koeing and colleagues. The study assessed 2,456 people aged 2-70 years with mild to moderate atopy treated with adjuvant PE A cream. Results were presented at the American Academy of Dermatology meeting in San Antonio.

"It used to be we treated flare-ups. Now we aim to repair the skin barrier with integrative physiologic moisturizers," said Dr. Smith, who has a consulting agreement with Stiefel Laboratories. "Atopic dermatitis in pediatric patients is shifting with common sense tips for management of atopic dermatitis can make a big difference in quality of life for affected children," Dr. Smith said. "If we can stop these kids from itching and scratching, we can get their skin to heal. An important issue is sleep quality—they are up at night itching and scratching."

A daily bath for children in lukewarm water is recommended, Dr. Smith said. "Apply medications and moisturizers immediately after bathing." Palmitamide MEA (PEA) is an important component of MimyX nonsteroidal cream, said Dr. Smith. "Physiologic moisturizers replace lost lipids, reduce transepidermal water loss, and calm inflammation, according to Dr. Smith, a dermatologist in private practice in Fort Mill, S.C.

A reliance on nonphysiologic moisturizers, such as petrolatum, eased when the physiologic moisturizers MimyX (Stiefel Laboratories), Atopiclair (Chester Valley Pharmaceuticals), and EpiCeram (Ceragenix Pharmaceuticals) became available. Nonphysiologic products "sit on the skin like icing on a cake and prevent water loss. Physiologic moisturizers are incorporated into the skin barrier," said Dr. Smith. "If we can stop these kids from itching and scratching, we can get their skin to heal. An important issue is sleep quality—they are up at night itching and scratching."

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