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REFERENCES

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Archivist

Atopic dermatitis: from child to adult

The incidence of atopic dermatitis (AD) has increased in the last few decades. The disease is well known to have social and psychological consequences as well as physical but its effects on development from childhood to adulthood (“course of life, CoL”) have not been well documented. Now, a single-centre study in Amsterdam (Elian EA Brenninkmeijer and colleagues. *Pediatr Dermatol* 2009;**26**:14–22) has provided more information.

A total of 117 young adults (83 women) aged 18–30 years (mean 23 years) who had had AD from early childhood completed questionnaires about quality of life and CoL. A control group consisted of 508 people without AD. Using a dermatological quality of life score (Skindex-29) almost half (49%) of the patients reported a current quality of life adversely affected by their AD. Quality of life was directly related to reported disease severity. Many patients requested more information about treatments, more personal guidance and advice from doctors, more psychological support, and more contact with other patients with AD. On a CoL questionnaire patients and controls did not differ on the whole with regards attainment of developmental milestones but a subgroup with more severe disease in childhood showed delayed social development. For example, those with severe AD spent less time with friends and were less likely to join sports clubs at school compared with those with moderate AD. Patients with severe AD were more likely to avoid intimacy, social activities, and sports activities. They were more often absent from school and more likely to do things on their own. Children with AD often harboured feelings of shame about their disease.

Social development may be impaired in children with severe AD. Care of children with AD should embrace the physical, psychological, and social aspects of the disease.

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RETRACTION

The following paper published Online First on 15 January 2009 was withdrawn because it represented a duplicate publication. Detection of human bocavirus in ill and healthy Spanish children: a 2-year study by M L Garcia Garcia, C Calvo, F Pozo, *et al.*

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