Atopic Dermatitis: A Heterogeneous Disease

Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a common, chronic, debilitating, fluctuating inflammatory skin disease. Patients with AD can experience a range of clinical symptoms, including eczematous lesions, severe pruritus, inflammation, and dry skin^{1,2}



The experience of AD can **vary significantly from patient to patient.** Age of onset, symptoms and comorbidities, lesional morphology and distribution, and severity of symptoms may vary among individuals^{1,3-6}



Patients with AD may present with different phenotypes⁶





Is the most burdensome symptom³

Comorbidities and Mental Health in Patients With AD

- Patients with AD have a higher risk for developing other atopic diseases, including food allergies, asthma, and allergic rhinitis^{2,9,14,15}
- Data suggests that AD is associated with comorbidities including anemia, obesity, headaches, and an increase in cardiovascular risk factors^{2,3,9,16}
- Patients with AD are at higher risk of developing mental health disorders, including anxiety, depression, cognitive dysfunction, and suicidal ideation^{3,17}
- Children and adolescents with AD are at increased risk of developing mental health disorders, in particular depression, anxiety, and conduct disorders.⁸⁻¹⁰ This relationship is further exacerbated by sleep disturbances and disease severity.¹⁸ Investigations to determine if there is a link between AD and developmental disorders, such as attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder and autism, are being conducted¹⁹

The Impact of Sleep Disturbance in AD

- Sleep disturbance is one of the major factors leading to impaired quality of life²⁰
- A majority of adults with AD have reported experiencing sleep disturbance²⁰
- The frequency and severity of sleep disturbance are worse with AD severity¹⁰
- Sleep disturbance can consequently lead to daytime sleepiness, fatigue, and impaired productivity at school or work²

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symptoms¹³

