

**Therapy and Guidelines Sub-Committee,
British Association of Dermatologists**

**Consideration of RCPCH Paediatric Eczema Care
Pathway**

The Therapy and Guidelines Sub-Committee of the British Association of Dermatologists has reviewed this draft document on the RCPCH care pathway for children with eczema, and has the following comments:

- Without exception, all the respondents considered there to be a disproportionate emphasis on allergy, especially food allergy, as a trigger for atopic eczema. The resultant care pathway is consequently biased, to its detriment.
- A stepped approach to topical corticosteroid therapy is recommended, although there is an insufficient evidence base to support this.
- The indications for onward specialist referral require clarification.
- Careers advice for adolescents with atopic eczema is appropriate.
- The concept stated on p.9 that all health professionals should have paediatric training is unrealistic and unnecessary.
- The relevance of nickel contact allergy (p.13) in face and hand eczema in children is questioned, although the importance of considering coincidental contact allergy in children with atopic eczema is not disputed.
- The competency (p.13) of being able to order patch testing for contact allergens by an appropriately trained specialist (e.g. dermatologist) might be better phrased.

In other respects, we found the care pathway appropriate.

Michael J. Tidman
Chair, Therapy & Guidelines Subcommittee
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