



Skin, Our Barrier to the World

What we need ...

**... to make life with atopic
eczema better for all**



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International Alliance of
Dermatology Patient
Organizations

Improving the lives of those with atopic eczema

Our call to policy makers:

1

Recognition that Atopic Eczema (Atopic Dermatitis) is a growing health crisis

Atopic eczema is the most common inflammatory skin disease, affecting up to one in five (20%) of children and adolescents worldwide and one in 10 (10%) of adults.¹ Recent research shows that its incidence is growing.^{2,3} Yet, it remains a low priority in many healthcare systems and is chronically under-researched.

We call on all governments and healthcare systems to:

- Prioritise healthcare and epidemiological research to map incidence of atopic eczema
 - Develop dermatology strategies, frameworks and plans to meet this growing need
 - Invest in scientific and clinical research to further our understanding of the disease
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2

Ensure timely access to dermatology specialists and mental health support

Despite its high incidence, children and adults with atopic eczema face agonising waits to see a dermatologist, and many do not have access to a dermatologist at all.^{4,5,6} This puts tremendous pressure on primary care physicians, with an estimated 24% of primary care consultations focused on skin diseases.⁷ Despite this pressure, dermatological training for primary care health practitioners is still not prioritised.⁷ Furthermore, atopic eczema is associated with several mental health co-morbidities, particularly attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, and depression.⁸ Access to mental health support is often lacking, leaving children and adults without adequate help.

We call on all governments and healthcare systems to:

- Invest in expanding the number of specialist dermatologists
 - Strengthen and expand dermatological training programmes for primary care physicians and related healthcare experts
 - Expand access to mental health support for those with atopic eczema
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3

Ensure reimbursed or affordable access to appropriate treatments

A range of treatment options exist for children and adults with atopic eczema, including biologic therapies. Affordable access to these therapies is often missing or severely restricted, meaning that many cannot receive adequate care. Evidence also shows that racial and ethnic disparities exist even when these treatments are available.⁹ This is putting a financial burden on families, with one study estimating €927 per patient in additional personal costs per year, to self-fund essential medicines such as emollients and creams.¹⁰

We call on all governments and healthcare systems to:

- Support wider reimbursed and/or affordable access to essential medicines
- Ensure unhindered access to newer medicines that have demonstrated effectiveness and value



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