

Continuing Medical Education

CME MCQ – 19

Focus on Systemic Treatment of Severe Atopic Eczema

The following questions are based on a recently published paper in: Acta Derm Venereol 2007; Systemic Treatment of Severe Atopic Eczema: A Systematic Review; Jochen Schmitt, Knut Schäkel, Natalie Schmitt and Michael Meurer. To minimize selection bias due to different baseline severity the review was limited to studies evaluating the subset of patients with severe AE, who do not adequately respond to topical treatments. 24 papers out of 925 met the criteria defined by the authors.

1. The International Consensus Conference on Atopic Dermatitis II (2003) suggested using the following therapies *except*:

- A. Corticosteroids
- B. Cyclosporine
- C. Methotrexate
- D. Azathioprine
- E. Mycophenolate mofetil

2. The number of clinical trials reporting the effect of systemic steroids in AD is very limited. Each of the following statements regarding the reported studies are true *except*:

- A. The effect of systemic steroids has only been reported in children.
- B. Systemic steroids are always effective when other treatments fail.

C. The effect of systemic steroids in adults has not been documented in published studies.

D. The effect of azathioprine 2,5 mg/kg was only documented in one study meeting the eligibility criteria defined by the reviewers.

3. Based on the eligibility criteria defined, all of the following therapies were mentioned in the review *except*:

- A. Azathioprine
- B. Infliximab
- C. Chinese herbal therapy
- D. Intravenous immunoglobulin
- E. Plasmapheresis

Recommended answers:
1. A: Mycophenolate mofetil has not been recommended by the consensus conference.
2. B.
3. E.