

Letter to the CME Editor,

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In the recent number of Forum for Nordic Dermato-Venereology (No. 1, Vol. 16, 2011), the Swedish Clinical Guidelines of Genital Herpes Simplex Virus (HSV) infection were published. Unfortunately, in the Comments on the Guidelines section, incorrect sentences were included in the text. While it is true that in Finland PCR is not available everywhere and culture is widely used for HSV diagnosis, the other sentences describe Gonorrhea Clinical Guidelines and were displaced in the layout. No urine sampling is done in HSV diagnostics.

Reply:

Dear Dr. Sari Suomela,

Thank you for your corrections to the comments we have earlier received from you in response to the recently published herpes simplex virus (HSV) guideline from Sweden. I understand that you are not testing urine for routine diagnostics of genital herpes. That seems to be in accordance with the overall impression that HSV DNA detection by nested PCR has mainly been used for research in asymptomatic individuals and with a questionable clinical relevance. Again, thank you for correcting your previous statements.

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European TREAT Survey

(TREATment of severe Atopic eczema in children Taskforce)

There is currently a lack of evidence to inform the systemic treatment of severe childhood atopic eczema. Anecdotally, there is wide variation in treatment approaches amongst clinicians both within and between countries in Europe, but no survey has been conducted to confirm this impression.

June 2011 will herald the launch of the TREAT (TREATment of severe Atopic eczema in children Taskforce) Survey across Europe. This is coordinated from the UK by Dr Carsten Flohr, Associate Professor in Paediatric Dermatology, Department of Paediatric Dermatology, St John's Institute of Dermatology in London, in collaboration with the European Dermato-Epidemiology Network (EDEN). The TREAT Survey co-ordinators for Scandinavia are Professor Åke Svensson (Malmö), Professor Carl-Fredrik Wahlgren (Stockholm), and Drs Mette Søndergaard Deleuran and Christian Vestergaard (both Århus). The survey also has the support of Paediatric Dermatology Societies across Europe.

The survey aims are to collect data on current practice in the management of severe childhood atopic eczema, to identify barriers to the use of specific agents, and to inform the design of a clinically relevant intervention study.

The survey will be conducted online and email links will be sent out shortly. Your participation is much appreciated and crucial to the success of this pan-European venture.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or comments please contact us at treat-survey@kcl.ac.uk.

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Åke Svensson

Carl-Fredrik Wahlgren

Mette Søndergaard Deleuran

Christian Vestergaard