

ATOPIC ECZEMA/DERMATITIS

## KNOWLEDGE, ATTITUDES AND PRACTICES OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS REGARDING ATOPIC DERMATITIS (AD) IN LOMÉ, TOGO

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**Introduction:** Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a skin condition whose prevalence is clearly increasing in Togo. This study aimed to assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices of healthcare workers with regards to AD.

**Method:** We conducted a prospective study from March to June 2018 in health facilities managing childhood diseases and located in the city of Lomé. The percentage KAP scoring system was used in our study. Scores for knowledge, attitudes and practices were obtained and thereafter grouped into four percentage KAP score categories (<50%, ≥50 - <65%, ≥65 - <85%, ≥85%).

**Results:** 134 healthcare workers (HCW) were studied including 61 (45.9%) GPs, interns and 24 (17.9%) pediatricians. Overall, the level of knowledge about AD was inadequate (63.2%). Allergy was the main cause of AD reported by 92.5% of our participants, followed by genetic causes (49.6%). Furthermore, majority of our respondents correctly identified allergic rhinitis (95.5%) and asthma (92.5%) as associated pathologies. With regards to attitudes, 22.6% of the HCW will rather refer AD cases to a dermatologist meanwhile 56.7% believed evolution is favorable when appropriate medical treatment is prescribed. Their perception on the evolution of AD was considered inadequate (56.7%). Also, the level of practice regarding the prescription of topical corticosteroids as medical treatment for AD was medium (69.4%) and poor as regards to prescribing emollients (35.8%). There was no significant association between knowledge, attitudes, and practices regarding AD among the various categories of HCWs.

**Conclusion:** The knowledge, attitudes and practices with regards to AD among the HCWs were inadequate hence underscoring the need for postgraduate training to improve awareness about this disease.

**Keywords:** Knowledge, Atopic dermatitis, Lomé