



ATOPIC ECZEMA/DERMATITIS

REVIEW OF HEALTH ECONOMIC ANALYSES IN ATOPIC DERMATITIS

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Introduction: Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a chronic inflammatory skin condition among both children and adults, which raises high disease burden caused by quality of life impairments and economic impact. Health economic research aims in particular to characterize the economic burden of a disease (cost-of-illness studies) and to compare the costs and consequences of alternative interventions (economic evaluations).

Objective: To report health economic analyses in AD that have been published to date. Of particular interest were the characteristics of health economic analyses, the economic burden of AD, the mostly considered treatments and outcome parameters and their main findings.

Materials and Methods: A literature review was conducted in both PubMed and EMBASE for health economic studies in AD indexed until 10th of January 2018 using the keywords “atopic dermatitis” and synonymous terms in combination with “cost”.

Results: 89 records met the predefined inclusion criteria. Most focused on full economic evaluations (39; 44 %) concerning treatments (26; 29 %) or the prevention of AD (13; 15 %), followed by cost-of-illness studies (34; 38 %) and cost analyses (12; 13 %). The interest in health economic research in AD has increased over the years and is most expressed in the USA (28) followed by Germany (16) and the UK (14). The majority of economic evaluations of treatments in AD concerns tacrolimus (8) and pimecrolimus (6). Quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) were the most frequently used outcome parameter to estimate cost-effectiveness ratios (14).

Conclusions: There is high diversity of the literature in health economic analyses in AD. Given the different health care environments and methodologies chosen, health economic analyses in AD can hardly be compared with each other and cannot be related to other landscapes of care. Nevertheless, the analyses identified indicate a high socioeconomic impact of AD.

