



ATOPIC ECZEMA/DERMATITIS

SERUM TOTAL AND ALLERGEN-SPECIFIC IMMUNOGLOBULIN E LEVELS IN OVERALL SKIN DISEASES

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Introduction: Immunoglobulin E (IgE) is known for an important factor for allergic diseases. There were many studies that analyzed the association of serum total IgE and allergen-specific IgE levels with allergic diseases. However, there were few studies regarding this association for overall skin diseases.

Objective: We analyzed serum total and allergen-specific IgE levels in overall skin diseases including atopic dermatitis (AD), urticaria, dermatitis (excluding AD), pruritus, infectious skin disease, drug eruption, and other skin diseases.

Materials and Methods: We retrospectively analyzed data from 2,836 patients who visited the dermatologic clinic of the Konkuk University Hospital for 4 years. Serum total IgE levels, allergen-specific IgE levels using multiple allergens simultaneous test (MAST), age, sex, diagnoses, and other clinical information were analyzed.

Results: The patients with AD showed a significantly higher rate of MAST positivity ($p < 0.001$), however, patients with other skin diseases showed no significant differences in IgE levels. Men showed higher serum total IgE levels than women ($p < 0.001$), however, the differences from gender decreased with increasing age.

Conclusions: This study suggests that there were no significant differences in the IgE levels among overall skin diseases, except AD. Moreover, we estimate that there were physiological and environmental differences in IgE-mediated immune responses according to gender.

