



PAEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY

## PREVALENCE OF SENSITIVE SKIN AMONG CHILDREN AGED 6 YEARS AND UNDER: LESSONS FROM MATERNAL OPINIONS

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**INTRODUCTION:** Sensitive skin [SS] has an international consensus definition proposed by the International Forum for the Study of Itch (IFSI) special interest group. The prevalence of SS has not been studied among infants and young children.

**Material and Methods:** We recruited a specific sample of 608 mothers with at least one child aged 6 years or under from various sociodemographic, geographic, and rural or urban backgrounds. The mothers surveyed answered an open-ended question about whether they thought their youngest child had sensitive skin and about the appearance of burning, tingling, irritation, or redness in the presence of emotion, cold, heat, the sun, cosmetics, dry air, air conditioning, water, pollution or changes in temperature.

**RESULTS:** Nearly half of mothers (44.6%) were concerned about their child's skin. This figure increased slightly when it was their first child (49.6 vs. 41.5%;  $p = 0.03$ ). When asked "Do you think your child has SS?" 53.9% replied positively. As in adults, we observed a difference according to gender (girls: 58.22%/boys: 48.73%;  $p < 0.05$ ). There was accompanying dermatosis in 75% of "very sensitive" skins. Skin sensitivity was confirmed with more specific questions about sensitivity to different factors. Of the mothers who reported SS in their child, 65% stated that they also had SS.

**DISCUSSION:** This is the first study to investigate SS in children and it seems to confirm the existence of such sensitivity. It suggests that more than one child on two has SS. Nonetheless, our results should be considered cautiously, since they are based simply on the opinions of the mothers. Nevertheless, they usually did understand what sensitive skin was, and we found the same trends as among adults.

**CONCLUSION:** Thus, SS appears to be a common phenomenon among young children. The characteristics of this sensitivity should be further elucidated, especially those regarding the triggering factors.

