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# OPTIMIZING BIOLOGIC THERAPY IN CHILDREN WITH MODERATE-TO-SEVERE ATOPIC DERMATITIS

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1

Type 2 Inflammation in Atopic Dermatitis  
and the Atopic March

*Panel Discussion*

2

Current and Emerging Biologics for  
Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis in  
Children

*Panel Discussion*

3

Interprofessional Management of  
Comorbidities in Children with Moderate-  
to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis

*Panel Discussion*

# Type 2 Inflammation in Atopic Dermatitis and the Atopic March

# Pathophysiology

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- AD is not just skin deep and it's not just a structural disease
- It's an immunologic disease that involves multiple players in the immune system
- At the center of the pathophysiology of AD is the IL-4

# Role of IL-4 and IL-13 in AD



- **Th2 Differentiation**

- IL-4 promotes T-helper cell differentiation from Th0 to Th2
- IL-4 also activates cells like mast cells and recruitment of basophils

- **Similar but not identical**

- Though IL-4 and IL-13 have overlapping functions, they are not identical



*Christy*

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**What was your daughter's experience with AD and asthma in early life and how did that evolve over the course of time?**

# Current and Emerging Biologics for Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis in Children



*Christy*

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**When did you notice your daughter's AD taking a turn for the worse?**

**Describe how severe it became and your thoughts on how it was initially managed?**



# Conventional Therapies

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## Non-Pharmacologic Therapy

Phototherapy  
Wet Wrap Therapy  
Bleach Baths  
Moisturizers



## Topical Therapy

Topical Corticosteroids (TCS)  
Topical Calcineurin Inhibitors (TCI)  
Crisaborole (PDE-4i)



## Conventional Systemic Therapy

Systemic Corticosteroids  
Cyclosporine  
Methotrexate  
Mycophenolate mofetil  
Azathioprine

# Polling Question

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**Currently, when selecting a systemic treatment option for infants and children, what is the main driver in your decision-making process?**

- A. Safety
- B. Efficacy
- C. Route of administration
- D. Dosing frequency

# Dupilumab Over Time in Moderate-Severe Atopic Dermatitis



**March 2017**

First Approval: Adults



2017

**May 2020**

Approval in ages 6 to 11 years



2020

2019

**March 2019**

Approval in ages 12 to 17



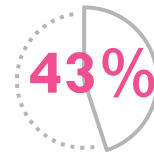
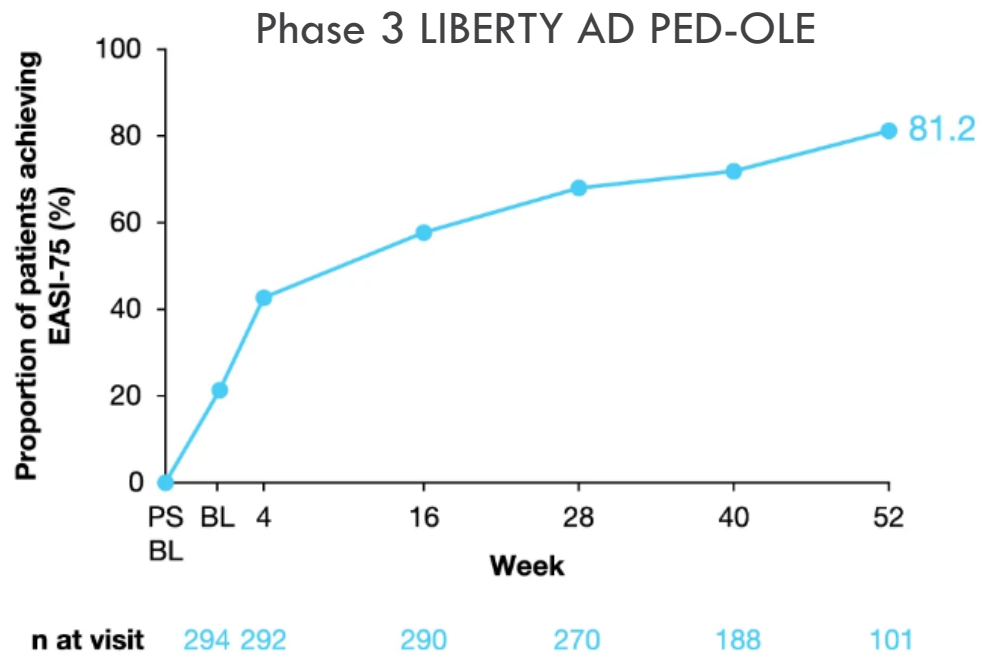
2022

**June 2022**

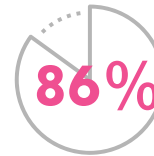
Approval in ages 6 months to 5 years



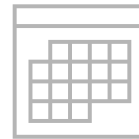
## Efficacy in Ages 12 to 17 Years



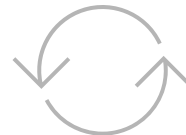
43% of patients achieved an investigator global assessment of 0/1 (clear/almost clear skin)



86% of patients achieved  $\geq 6$ -point improvement in the children's dermatology QoL index



Most patients required up-titration from q4weeks to q2weeks

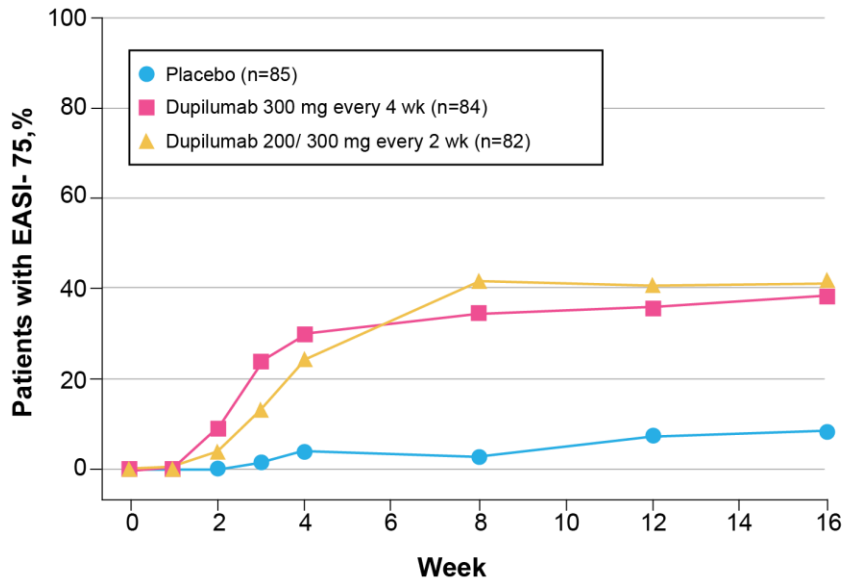


Discontinuing patients experienced AD recurrence

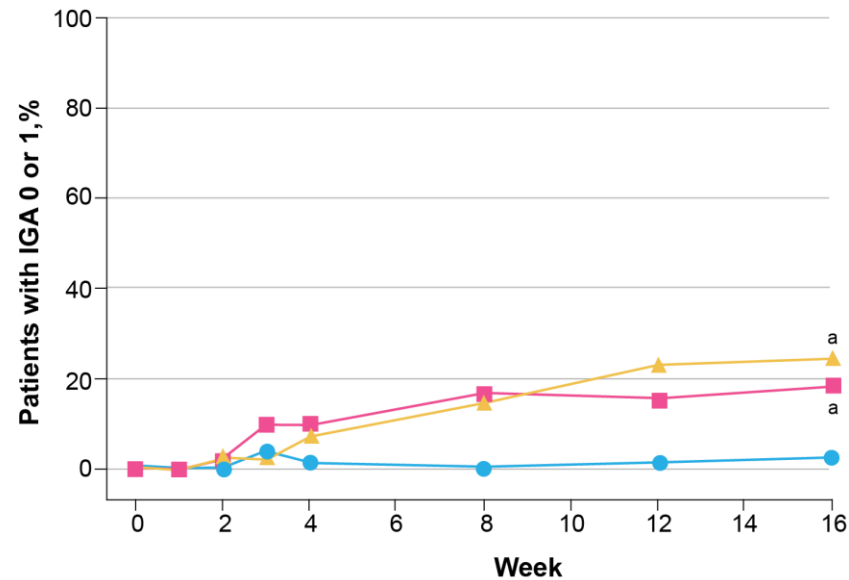
## Efficacy in Ages 12 to 17 Years



**Patients achieving EASI-75**



**Patients achieving IGA 0 or 1**



Patients with comorbid asthma or allergic rhinitis showed numeric improvement in control/symptoms

IgE concentrations for specific food and aeroallergens were significantly suppressed

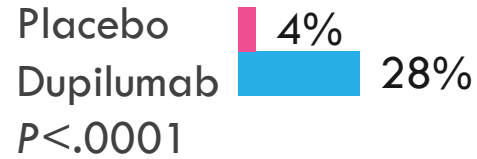
Statistically/clinically significant improvements were observed in signs/symptoms of AD, itch, sleep, and QoL

## Efficacy in Ages $\geq 6$ Months to 5 Years

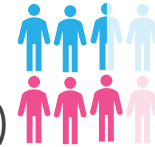
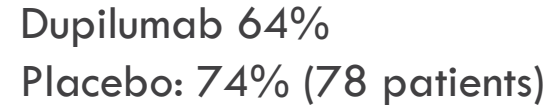


### LIBERTY AD PRESCHOOL

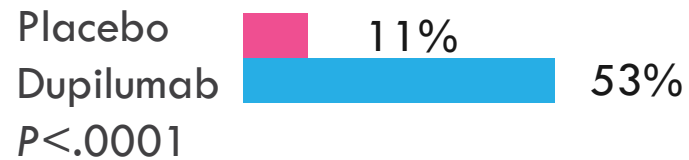
#### Week 16: Patients Achieving IGA 0-1



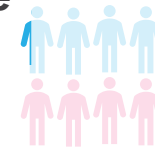
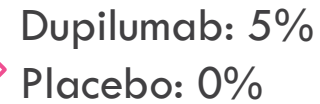
#### Overall Adverse Events



#### Week 16: Patients Achieving EASI-75



#### Conjunctivitis Incidence



N=162, Dupilumab + TCS: 83, Placebo: 79

# Polling Question

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**In your practice, what is the main driver for discontinuing biologic therapy in your pediatric patients?**

- A.** Safety/tolerability
- B.** Lack of efficacy
- C.** Adherence
- D.** Barriers to access

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# *Panel Discussion*

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**What safety concerns do patients and providers have with dupilumab and how do you work as a team to mitigate them?**

**In your practice, what seems to be the main driver for discontinuing biologic therapy?**



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# *Panel Discussion*

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**In your clinics, how do you safely transition children from immunomodulators to dupilumab, if required?**



# Approach to Transition



	Week 0 to 8	Disease Control Week 8 - ...	No Disease Control
CsA	Maintain Dose	Reduce dose every 2 weeks by 25% of starting dose	<p>If current dose was used for roughly &lt;8 weeks, continue immunosuppressant at the same dose for another 4 weeks</p> <p>If current dose was used for roughly &gt;8 weeks, consider continuation of concomitant immunosuppressant at the lowest possible, effective dose on the long term and/or consider discontinuation of dupilumab treatment</p>
MTX AZA MPA MMF	Maintain Dose	Every 4 weeks reduce dose by 50% of starting dose	

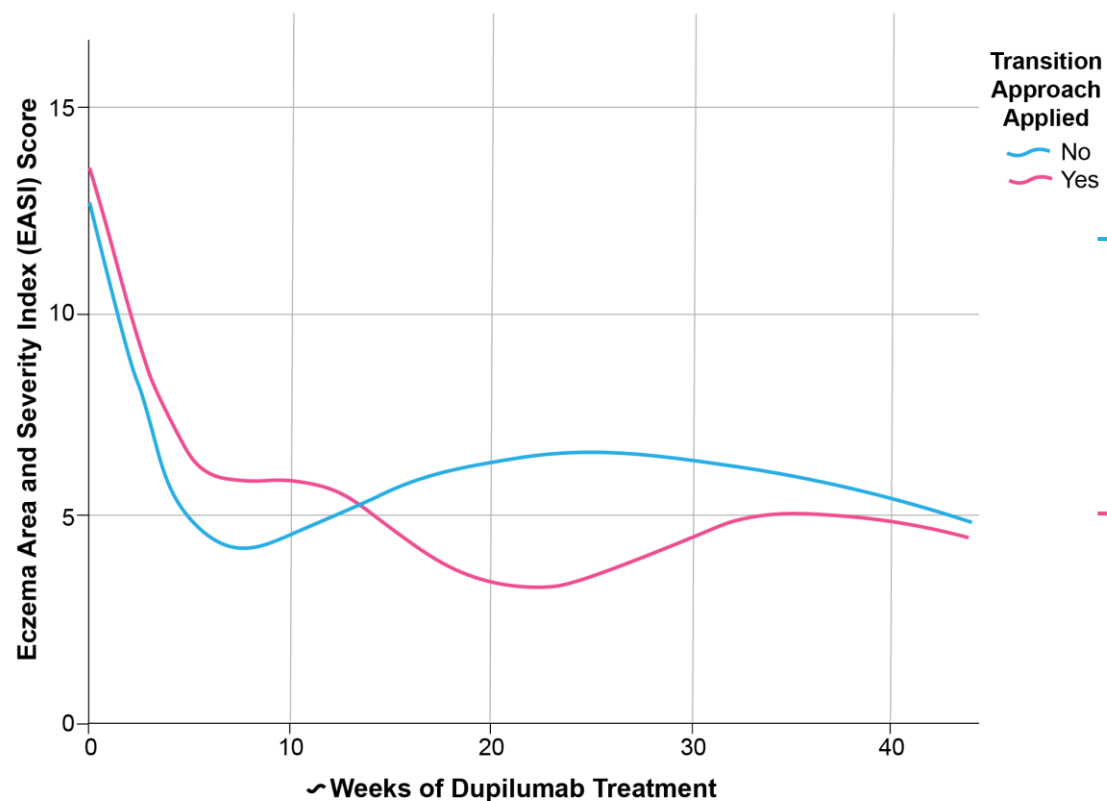
# Approach to Transition



	Week 0 to 8	Disease Control Week 8 - ...	No Disease Control
CsA	<i>For Example:</i> 100 mg BID for weeks 0 to 8	<i>For Example:</i> 75 mg BID wk 8 to 10 50 mg BID wk 10 to 12 25 mg BID wk 12 to 14 d/c CsA on wk 14	
MTX AZA MPA MMF	<i>For Example:</i> MTX 15 mg weekly weeks 0 to 8	<i>For Example:</i> 7.5 mg/wk 8 to 12 d/c MTX wk 12	

# Approach to Transition

## DISEASE SEVERITY OF PATIENTS WITH AND WITHOUT THE USE OF THE PROPOSED TRANSITION APPROACH



- Patients with AD (n=61) who discontinued immunosuppressants at the start or in the first 12 to 14 weeks of dupilumab treatment
- Patients with AD (n=44) with concomitant systemic immunosuppressants that were slowly tapered and then discontinued after at least 12 to 14 weeks of dupilumab treatment, according to the transition approach described



## *Christy*

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**Your daughter was eventually placed on dupilumab. Walk us through your first day at the multidisciplinary clinic and how that was for you and your daughter.**



# Panel Discussion

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**Are there any special safety/monitoring considerations to be taken when prescribing dupilumab to infants?**



**What challenges do you encounter that are unique to infants when it comes to *administering* dupilumab and what tips do you have to help overcome them?**

# Emerging Therapies for Children



	Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3	Registration	Ages
<b>JAK Inhibitors</b>					
Upadacitinib <sup>1</sup>	█	█	█	█	2 to <12 years
Baricitinib <sup>2</sup>	█	█	█	█	2 to 17 years
Abrocitinib <sup>3</sup>	█	█	█	█	≥12 years
<b>Anti-IL-13</b>					
Tralokinumab <sup>4,5</sup>	█	█	█	█	2 to 17 years
Lebrikizumab <sup>6,7</sup>	█	█	█	█	Adolescents/adults
<b>Anti-31RA</b>					
Nemolizumab <sup>8</sup>	█	█	█	█	2 to 11 years

1. NCT03646604; 2. NCT03952559; 3. NCT03422822; 4. NCT05388760;  
5. NCT03526861; 6. NCT05372419; 7. NCT05369403; 8. NCT04921345.



## Phase 3 BREEZE-AD-PEDs



**N=483**  
**Children/adolescents**  
**(2 to 17 years)**

## Data in Pediatrics: Baricitinib

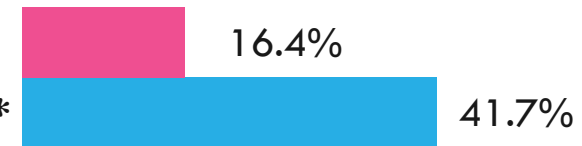
**Week 16: Patients achieving IGA 0-1 and  
≥2-point improvement from baseline**



Placebo

Baricitinib highest dose\*

$P < .001$



\*Baricitinib 2 mg in children <10 years and baricitinib 4 mg in children 10 to 17 years.





Phase 3  
JADE TEEN<sup>1,2</sup>




N=285  
Adolescents  
(12 to 17 years)

## Data in Pediatrics: Abrocitinib

Currently approved in the UK for ages  $\geq 12$  years<sup>3</sup>

### Week 12: Patients Achieving ESAI 75



Placebo		42%
Abrocitinib 200 mg		72%

$P < .05$

### Week 12: Patients Achieving IGA 0-1



Placebo		25%
Abrocitinib 200 mg		46%

$P < .05$

# Safety considerations: JAK Inhibitors



**Class-wide Boxed Warning:** Risks for thrombosis, major adverse cardiovascular events, and all-cause mortality<sup>1</sup>

## Phase 3 BREEZE-AD PEDS (Baricitinib)<sup>2</sup>

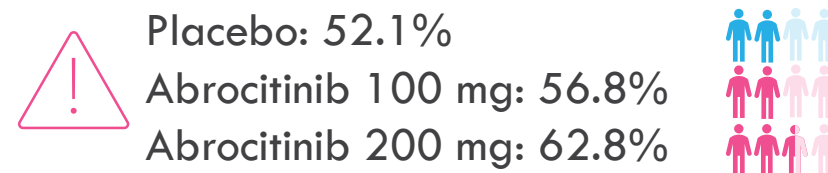
### Overall Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events

- Overall: ~50% both groups
- No severe adverse effects
- No new safety signals
- No cases of DVT, PE, or other AESIs
- Some cases of elevated creatinine phosphokinase levels not due to muscle injury; possible increase in low-density cholesterol level

\*One Phase 3 study of patients aged ≥13 years in Japan.

## Phase 3 JADE TEEN (Abrocitinib)<sup>3</sup>

### Overall Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events



### Adverse Events of Special Interest

AE of Special Interest	N	Group
Cutaneous herpes zoster	1	Abrocitinib
Herpes simplex	1	Abrocitinib
Oral herpes	3	Abrocitinib
Conjunctivitis	1	Placebo
Acne	8	Abrocitinib
	1	Placebo

1. Daniele SG, et al. *J Drugs Dermatol.* 2022;21(12):1298-1303; 2. Torrelo A, et al. Presented at: European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology; September 7-10, 2022; Milan, Italy; 3. Eichenfield LF, et al. *JAMA Dermatol.* 2021;157(10):1-9.



Phase 3  
ECZTRA 6



N=289  
Adolescents

### Data in Pediatrics: Tralokinumab

Currently approved for use in adults with moderate-to-severe AD

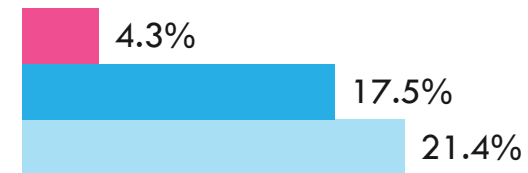
#### Week 16: Patients Achieving EASI 75



Placebo

Tralokinumab 300 mg  $P=.002$

Tralokinumab 150 mg  $P<.001$



#### Week 16: Patients Achieving IGA 0-1



Placebo

Tralokinumab 300 mg  $P=.001$

Tralokinumab 150 mg  $P<.001$



# Safety Considerations: Monoclonal Antibodies



## Anti-IL-13

Increased risk of conjunctivitis based on a systematic review and meta-analysis of RCTs in **adults** with AD<sup>1</sup>



Lebrikizumab: 6.3%

Tralokinumab: 6.2%

### Phase 3 ECZTRA 6

(tralokinumab, **adolescents**)<sup>2</sup>



Placebo: 2.1%

Tralokinumab: 3.1% to 4.1%

## Anti-IL-31RA

Systematic review and meta-regression analysis of RCTs in **adults** with AD<sup>3\*</sup>

Most frequently reported AEs were:



- Skin or subcutaneous tissue disorders including nasopharyngitis (10% to 32.7%)
- Exacerbated AD (15% to 28.1%)

\*One Phase 3 study of patients aged  $\geq 13$  years in Japan.

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# *Panel Discussion*

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**Where do you see JAK inhibitors and IL-31 inhibitors playing a role in the treatment of AD in children?**

**Will these be reserved for patients with refractory to dupilumab?**



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# *Panel Discussion*

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**As the armamentarium of IL-13 targeting mAbs grows, how are these new agents designed to be different from dupilumab, which dually targets IL-4 and IL-13?**

**Is there expected to be a clinical difference in safety, efficacy, or patient selection?**

# Interprofessional Management of Comorbidities in Children with Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis

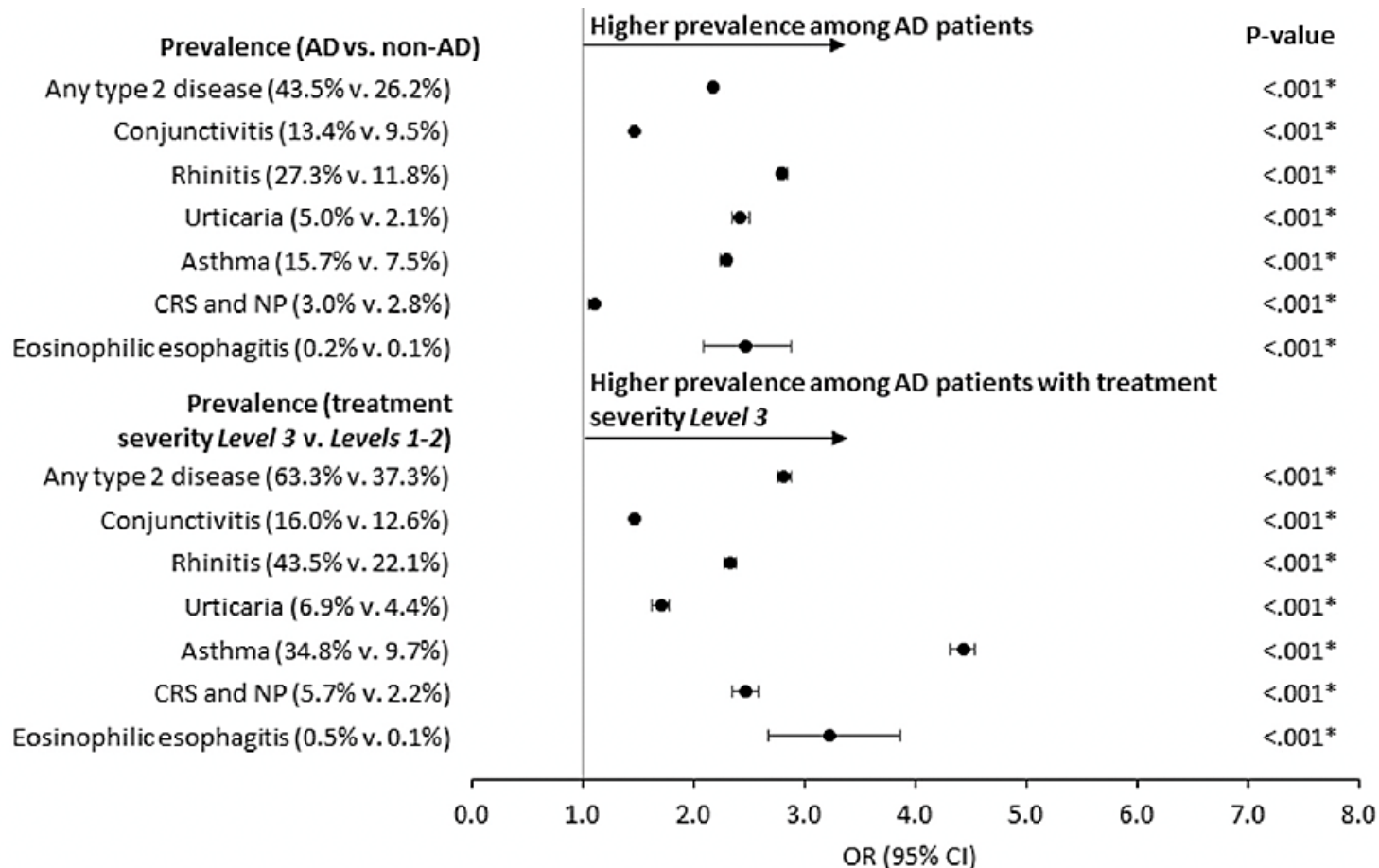
# Common Atopic Comorbidities

>2xs

Patients with AD were **more than twice as likely** than patients without AD to be diagnosed **with an atopic comorbidity**



Prevalence of additional atopic comorbidities **increased with increasing severity of AD**





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# *Panel Discussion*

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**How do you work as a team to effectively manage atopic comorbidities in pediatric patients?**



# Psychosocial Issues



Sleep-related  
impairment<sup>1</sup>

Sleep-related  
anxiety<sup>1</sup>

ADD/ADHD<sup>2</sup>

Autism<sup>2</sup>

Sleep-related  
depression<sup>1</sup>

Sleep-related  
inattention<sup>1</sup>

Emotional/  
behavioral  
difficulties<sup>2,3</sup>

Bullying<sup>4</sup>

Sleep-related  
fatigue<sup>1</sup>

Sleep-related  
impulsivity<sup>1</sup>

Feelings of  
frequent worry<sup>2</sup>

Family  
disruption<sup>5</sup>

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# Panel Discussion

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**How do you work as an interprofessional and multidisciplinary team at your institution to identify and address the *psychosocial burden* associated with AD in children and their families?**

## *Christy*

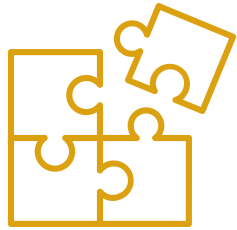
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**During doctor visits, you are often required to complete forms that ask about your daughter's quality of life with eczema.**

**What did you learn about your daughter and her life with AD as you filled these forms out together?**



# Coordinated and Structured Multidisciplinary Care Teams are Helpful to Manage Complex Patients



They follow a structured and coordinated approach to provide holistic patient care



The team can include dermatologists, nurses/medical assistants/physician assistants, allergists, pharmacists, psychologists/psychiatrists, nutritionists, pulmonologists, or departments to which patients can easily be referred for testing, diagnosis, management, and support



An important aspect is identifying a primary point of contact within the team for connecting, communicating, and providing proper triage of care

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# Panel Discussion

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**What are some best practices that you employ at your institution for involving *all* members of the healthcare team in the care of children with AD?**



*Christy*

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**What was your experience meeting with the different members of the interprofessional care team at the clinic?**

**What do you recommend to improve the experience and make it a little less overwhelming?**

# Benefits of Interprofessional Care: Multidisciplinary Educational Program in Norway



Three months after attendance, there was improvement in:

## Providers in the Educational Program:

Patient Organizations  
Caregiver Representative  
Dermatologist  
Nurse  
Psychologist  
Social Worker



## Family QoL

### Dermatitis Family Impact



## AD Severity

### Patient Oriented – Scoring AD




## Reduced Fear of Topical Steroids



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# *Panel Discussion*

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A blue icon representing three stylized human figures, with one figure in the foreground and two behind it, suggesting a group or panel.

**What challenges and successes have you experienced in providing interprofessional care for children with AD and their caregivers?**

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# *Panel Discussion*

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**What best practices are recommended for patient and caregiver education?**





*Christy*

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**What was your experience with education on  
AD and its treatment?**

**What did you find the most impactful and  
relevant to your needs?**

# Summary



- 
- Type 2 inflammatory cytokines are involved in the pathogenesis of moderate-to-severe AD and other atopic diseases and are the target of current and emerging biologics.
  - Emerging immune-directed therapies for the treatment of moderate-to-severe AD in children include, biologics targeting IL-13 and IL-31, and small molecules targeting JAK.
  - The interprofessional care team can play an important role in managing the complex needs of children with moderate-to-severe AD and comorbidities.