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Atopic Dermatitis' Treatment Patterns in Latin America: A Systematic Literature Review

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INTRODUCTION

- Atopic dermatitis (AD) is a chronic inflammatory disease with a prevalence of about 2.68% worldwide.
- AD represents a significant cause of morbidity and comorbidities globally, including in Latin America (LATAM).
- There are several AD unmet needs and barriers to AD control in LATAM, including disease management.
- Several guidelines proposing recommendations to manage the disease are available. However, most of the physicians are not trained in the diagnosis and not know the new therapy recommendations for the management of AD.

OBJECTIVES

- Conduct a systematic literature review (SLR) to evaluate treatment patterns in adults and adolescents with moderate to severe AD in Latin America

MATERIALS AND METHODS

- A systematic search of studies with treatment evaluation of adult and adolescent patients with moderate to severe AD in Latin America was performed.
- Electronic searches were performed until July 2022 in the following databases: The Cochrane Library, MEDLINE via PubMed, Latin American and Caribbean Literature in Health Sciences (LILACS), and Embase. Additionally, reference lists of all included studies were screened, and grey literature was searched to identify additional studies.

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ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- The search included observational studies, systematic reviews with or without meta-analysis of observational studies, studies with Latin American adult and adolescent participants with moderate to severe atopic dermatitis [Investigator Global Assessment (IGA) ≥ 3; Eczema Area and Severity Index (EASI) ≥ 7.1; and SCORing Atopic Dermatitis (SCORAD) ≥ 25], and studies with outcomes related to the treatment profile, including proportions of each drug use and of treatment failure, time to treatment failure, and subsequent therapies.
- Exclusion criteria included narrative reviews, case reports or series, preclinical trials (with animal models), pharmacokinetic or pharmacodynamic studies, and randomized clinical trials.
- Two reviewers independently searched the databases using the previously defined strategy and selected the studies for inclusion.
- Data extracted from eligible studies were descriptively reported as extracted from the articles. Synthesis methods were not used and thus, bias and certainty assessment were not necessary.

RESULTS

- 1,444 studies were returned.
- 10 studies fulfilled eligibility criteria, considering studies reporting data regardless of disease severity.
- Sociodemographic characteristics are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Sociodemographic characteristics reported in the included studies

Author, year	Local	Age (Mean [SD/range])	Sex: Female (N [%])	Sex: Male (N [%])
Angles, 2022	Buenos Aires, Argentina	54 (24)	8 (73)	3 (27)
Arruda, 2021	Southern and Southeastern Brazil	24.7 (13.4)	105 (56.1)	82 (43.9)
Bortoli, 2021	Brazil	21-29 years: 98 (6.6) ** 30-39 years: 553 (37.5) ** 40-49 years: 320 (21.7) ** 50-59 years: 300 (20.4) ** >60 years: 202 (13.7) **	1,178 (80.0)	295 (20.0)
Cuervo, 2021	Medellín, Colombia	27.7 (7-68)	57 (50.4)	56 (49.6)
Sanclemente, 2021	Colombia	12-18 years: 53 (25) ** >18 years: 159 (75) **	112 (52.8)	100 (47.2)
Santos, 2021	Brazil	≤5 years: 9,456 (34.0) ** 6-11 years: 4,923 (17.7) ** 12-17 years: 2,225 (8.0) ** >18 years: 11,209 (40.3) **	15,325 (55.1)	12.488 (44.9)
Máspero, 2020	Buenos Aires, Argentina	37.5 (18-74) *	7 (35)	13 (65)

TREATMENT PROFILE

- Information regarding treatment options reported in the included studies. Six studies reported the proportion of treatment strategies used regardless of disease severity, and two studies considered patients with moderate to severe disease.
- Most frequently used therapies considering studies reporting data regardless of disease severity are topical treatment (12.2-91.9%) and Systemic Corticosteroids (71.25%). (Table 2)
- Among patients with moderate to severe AD, topical treatments (42.5-100%) and systemic corticosteroids (100%) are broadly used (Table 3)

Table 2. Treatment profile regardless of disease severity

Frequently Used Therapies	Range of Individuals Using Therapies
Topical Treatment	12.2 to 91.9%
Systemic Corticosteroids	71.25%
Oral Antihistamines	55.4 to 63.3%
Phototherapy	35%

Table 3. In individuals with moderate to severe disease

Frequently Used Therapies	Range of Individuals Using Therapies
Topical Treatment	42.5 to 100%
Systemic Corticosteroids	100%
Oral Antihistamines	86 to 86.3%
Phototherapy	22.5 to 75%

CONCLUSIONS

- This Systematic Review Literature demonstrated that, in LATAM, topical therapies are broadly used as the first choice for AD treatment and systemic corticosteroids are usually the choice for individuals presenting moderate to severe disease.
- This overuse of systemic corticosteroids is alarming due to the potential side effects of corticosteroids.
- Absence of a clear treatment algorithm is noted, which may indicate a lack of knowledge or access to new therapies for treating moderate to severe AD.

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