August 2012

Atopic Dermatitis

1. Q: What classes of drugs are used to treat atopic dermatitis?

A: 1. Corticosteroids 2. Calcineurin Inhibitors

1. Q: Name Calcineurin Inhibitor medications?

A: 1. Tacrolimus 2. Pimecrolimus

1. Q: How do Calcineurin Inhibitor medications work?

A: As topical immune modulators, controlling T Helper cell and cytokine production.

1. Q: How do Calcineurin Inhibitor medications differ from corticosteroid medications?

A: They provide targeted, specific anti-inflammatory effects, rather than the wide-ranging effects of corticosteroids.

1. Q: What are the medical concerns of using Calcineurin Inhibitors?

A: 1. Malignancy 2. Shingles 3. Photosensitivity

1. Q: How are the medical concerns of Calcineurin Inhibitors to be avoided?

A: 1. Use only as indicated. 2. Only used in patients over 2 years of age.

 3. Use as second line treatment. 4. Use on an intermittent basis.

1. Q: Is there a medical benefit to combining corticosteroids and Calcineurin Inhibitors?

A: No

1. Q: What systemic medications are used for atopic dermatitis?

A: 1. Cyclosporine 2. Methotrexate 3. Azathioprine

1. Q: Why are oral steroids not recommended for treating atopic dermatitis?

A: Rebound of symptoms after drug withdrawal.

1. Q: What are the possible systemic side effects of topical corticosteroid use?

A: 1. HPA suppression 2. Growth suppression in children

 3. Osteoporosis 4. Glaucoma