

ATOPIC DERMATITIS AND THE IMMUNE SYSTEM



Atopic dermatitis (AD), the most common type of eczema, is a long-term skin disease that causes dry, itchy, and inflamed patches of skin.

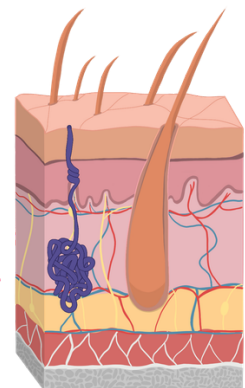
21.6 million Americans have AD

CAUSES

There is no single cause of atopic dermatitis. It is a combination of genetics, environmental factors, a disrupted skin barrier, and your immune system.

SYMPTOMS

- Dry or Cracked Skin
- Itchy Skin
- Red, purple, brown, discoloration
- Inflammation



Layers of Skin

THE IMMUNE SYSTEM'S ROLE

The immune system is a major driver of atopic dermatitis. The skin and the immune cells within it, provide crucial protection for the body. When the skin barrier is damaged, irritants can access deeper layers of the skin. This triggers immune cells and signals to respond. This abnormal immune activation contributes to persistent inflamed and itchy skin patches. Researchers are working to better understand the immune system's role in atopic dermatitis to improve treatment options for patients.



Learn more at
ImmunologyExplained.org

BE PREPARED

When preparing to talk to a doctor, have the following information ready:

- ☐ When did symptoms start?
- ☐ Where on your body is it?
- ☐ Has it gotten worse in the last 6 months?
- ☐ Any new exposures?
(cleaning/hygiene products, laundry detergents, pets, allergens, etc.)
- ☐ Any photos of flares