

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### ***Experts attending EAACI's "Skin Allergy Meeting" in Venice say treatment of skin diseases is pivotal to block other types of allergies***

**Zurich/Venice, 12 November 2010 – An early and accurate diagnosis of atopic dermatitis is pivotal to block escalation and even prevent other allergies in the same patient, experts at the EAACI's "Skin Allergy Meeting" warned today.**

Successful treatment of atopic dermatitis, whose occurrence tripled in the last 15 years, is especially important in children, as at their young age, there is still an option to prevent the progressing of the disease.

EAACI scientists also underlined the role of skin barriers in this regard and the need to maintain and strengthen this gatekeeper through emollients and anti-inflammatory treatments.

"Skin is the "main door" for allergens to get into the body and successfully treating skin allergies can block the disease from becoming chronic. At the same time, it might prevent the development of additional allergies, particularly in those children with eczema and food allergy who are at higher risk of developing respiratory symptoms", said Dr. Antonella Muraro, Local Chair of the EAACI Meeting.

The correlation between the development of an allergic skin disease and food allergy, while not as common as perceived, still happens in 30 percent of children affected by moderate or severe eczema. It occurs especially in children who are younger than two years of age.

Food allergies are often triggered by peanuts, nuts, egg, milk, fish or shellfish and can cause severe reactions.

"It is important to undertake an accurate evaluation of a possible association of food allergy with atopic dermatitis before forcing young patients to avoid certain types of food, which may end up being an unnecessary step and could do more harm than good," said Dr. Muraro, who is also a member of EAACI's Board of Officers.

Among the new therapeutic approaches being discussed at the EAACI meeting is the suggestion to reverse the attitude to treat mainly the acute inflammatory phases of atopic dermatitis and actively promote continued care.

"It's important to continue applying treatment even when the patch is no longer visible, to eradicate eczema," said Prof. Arnold P. Oranje, Professor of Pediatric Dermatology at Rotterdam University and member of EAACI, who attended the international Meeting.

Over 300 among the world's most renowned specialists and allergy experts are taking part in the works of EAACI's "Skin Allergy Meeting," which runs through Nov. 13.



**About EAACI:**

EAACI - The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology is a non-profit organisation active in the field of allergic and immunologic diseases such as asthma, rhinitis, eczema, occupational allergy, food and drug allergy and anaphylaxis. EAACI was founded in 1956 in Florence and has become the largest medical association in Europe in the field of allergy and clinical immunology. It includes 6'100 members from 107 countries, as well as 41 National Allergy Societies.

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