Clinical Effectiveness of a Silk Fabric in the Treatment of Atopic Dermatitis


The purpose of this study was to evaluate the effectiveness of DermaSilk in the treatment of young children affected by atopic dermatitis at the time of examination.

METHOD
Forty six children, aged between 4 months and 10 years old with atopic dermatitis were recruited and randomised to DermaSilk (31 patients) or cotton clothing (15 patients) to be worn continuously for a week. The only other medicines prescribed were topical moisturisers. No steroid creams or topical antibiotics were prescribed.

The severity of the eczema was measured by the SCORAD index, a scientific way of measuring a mixture of physical and social effects that atopic dermatitis has on patients. The doctors measuring these scores were not aware which garments the patients were using.

RESULTS
At the end of the study the SCORAD index of the DermaSilk group had significantly decreased from 43 to 30 (P=0.003) whilst the cotton wearing group had moved from 47 to 46.

83% of children using DermaSilk had shown an improvement in their overall condition, whereas none of the cotton wearing children had shown any improvement.

Areas of eczema which were present on the DermaSilk clothed children but which had not been covered by DermaSilk were also examined as a control. They did not show any significant improvement over the week suggesting that it was, indeed the covering of the eczema with DermaSilk that was having the beneficial effect.

Figure 1. Evaluation of effectiveness of DermaSilk clothes in two groups of children affected by atopic dermatitis (AD) with reference to the SCORAD index evaluation. Comparison of percentage of patients with mild, moderate and severe AD at first and second examinations in the treatment group and in the control group.

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CONCLUSION
The authors concluded that DermaSilk appeared to significantly improve the condition of eczema lesions and that the parents of these children also reported a reduction in itching and scratching.

DermaSilk appears to have a rapid effect on the symptoms of atopic dermatitis in children, showing a positive effect in only 7 days in over 80% of children and may represent a useful tool in the management of the disease.