

24 September 2008

Margaret Cox, Chief Executive of the National Eczema Society, comments in relation to the research paper, Early introduction of fish decreases the risk of eczema in infants published in the Archive of Disease in Childhood.

"The National Eczema Society welcomes all research surrounding the causes of and treatments for eczema as it is vital that we learn more about this very common and debilitating condition which is so often wrongly dismissed as trivial."

"The exact causes of eczema remain to be fully identified but we are aware that there is often a significant genetic component and that, as this Swedish study shows, your child is more likely to have eczema if you already have the condition in your family, particularly the immediate family.

"We can not change our genetic inheritance but for those of us whose families are predisposed to eczema we may be able to lessen the impact by taking care of our children's skin from the very start: in particular by avoiding soap, detergents and other harsh products and maintaining a good skin care regime using emollients (medical moisturisers) and soap substitutes."

George Du Toit, Consultant in Paediatric Allergy, said: "The connection between diet and eczema is complex. Eczema, particularly severe eczema, is commonly associated with the presence of food allergy. Parents of young eczematous children may therefore wish to consult with their Doctor prior to the introduction of foods that commonly cause allergy e.g. cow's milk, peanut and even fish. The National Eczema Society is proud to support studies which seek to determine if the early consumption - or avoidance - of foods serves as the best strategy for the prevention of food allergy, for more information visit www.leapstudy.co.uk."

If in any doubt or for further advice and support, contact the National Eczema Society helpline on 0800 089112 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday or visit the Society's website www.eczema.org.

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For press enquiries, to organise interviews or for case study information please contact:

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National Eczema Society runs a helpline for
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Monday to Friday between 8am – 8pm
Or email helpline@eczema.org