



ISAD 2023 GDANSK OCAD PRE-MEETING

PRESENTER: RACHEL OGOLA

ORGANISATION: ECZEMA SOCIETY OF KENYA

DATE : 31ST AUGUST 2023

ECZEMA SOCIETY OF KENYA



TOPIC: THERAPEUTIC CONSTRAINTS FOR PATIENTS WITH ATOPIC ECZEMA

ECZEMA SOCIETY OF KENYA



- **Affordability/ Poverty:** The treatment and medication of eczema is too expensive, patients can barely afford to pay for consultation of experts, medication is equally expensive and not available locally like in Kenya we rely on imported creams and medication which are heavily loaded with taxation and import excise duty.
- **Insurance Companies** do not cover most medications and treatment regimens for patients.

- The Governments have totally ignored skin diseases, emphasis is on tropical diseases.
- Lack of treatment guidelines in Africa, we rely on guidelines from Europe and Asia.
- Fear OF STERIODS has weakened treatment of eczema.

- Stigma and perception that treatment regimens for atopic eczema is complex and there's concern on the safety of most of them.
- Cultural beliefs, illiteracy & stigma, have led to poor medical adherence due to poor support and management.
- Slow medical advancement and technology challenges.
- Very little clinical trials on black African skin, we don't get products that are custom made for our skin.

- Skin experts not making use of referral pathways to achieve holistic treatment: atopic eczema patients are rarely referred for psycho-social therapy, also if children were referred to dieticians and nutritionist we would have less malnourished patients in their early ages.
- Poor infrastructure, lack of clean and safe water, air pollution.
- Lack of resources and training tools.

TAKE AWAYS:

ECZEMA SOCIETY OF KENYA



- Governments should endeavor to achieve universal health coverage and access to quality health care for patients and caregivers .
- Address affordability of medication.
- Intensify continuous professional education for skin experts esp. on new drugs and emerging technology on atopic eczema treatment.

- More tools, resources and information on atopic eczema.
- Lobby for research centers and more research on atopic eczema.
- Develop treatment guidelines, In 2023.....Africa depends on guidelines developed for Europe and Asia.

- Policymakers to help develop policies that will improve treatment of eczema and also support patients' needs. There is need to classify atopic eczema as a chronic condition and have its taxes waived on medication.
- Increase funding to governments, support patients, Organizations and associations carryout their work.
- Pharmaceutical Companies to carry out more clinical trials and develop drugs that are affordable for low income Countries.

THE END.

ECZEMA SOCIETY OF KENYA

