

CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum: Consensus-based European guidelines for treatment of atopic eczema (atopic dermatitis) in adults and children: part I

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<https://doi.org/10.1111/jdv.14891>

Urea-containing emollients do not cause kidney dysfunction in infants

The consensus-based European guidelines for the treatment of atopic eczema (atopic dermatitis) in adults and children published last year in this journal had contained a statement that 'urea may cause irritation and kidney dysfunction in infants and should be avoided in this age group, whereas toddlers should be treated with lower concentrations than adults'.¹ However, there is no evidence published that urea-containing emollients would have caused kidney dysfunction in an infant, even if some dermatologists are reluctant to use urea under the age of two years. Moreover, published literature indicates that the application of a topical formulation containing 5% urea to infant skin would not result in toxic serum or tissue levels of urea.² This is in good accordance with a calculated 'worst-case scenario' with 100% uptake of a total weekly amount of 100–250 g of a 5% urea cream to an infant's skin, which would only add up to a small fraction of the daily renal excretion of urea.² In consequence, we have changed the online version of the guideline text to 'Urea may cause irritation or stinging sensation especially if applied to lesional skin. Some dermatologists are reluctant to use urea under the age of two years. Toddlers should be treated with lower concentrations than adults'.

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References

- 1 Wollenberg A, Barbarot S, Bieber T *et al.* Consensus-based European guidelines for treatment of atopic eczema (atopic dermatitis) in adults and children: part I. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venereol* 2018; **32**: 657–682.
- 2 Final report of the safety assessment of urea. *Int J Toxicology* 2005; **24**(suppl 3): 1–56.