
April 2020: This Month in *JAAD* Case Reports



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Although the exact prevalence of atopic dermatitis (AD) in patients with HIV is not known, some sources estimate that it is significantly higher than the general population.¹ People with AD and HIV both show a decline in T helper (Th) type 1 activity and an increase in Th2 activity.² Dupilumab, although not considered an immunosuppressive medication, is an immunomodulatory agent that suppresses the Th2 response by inhibiting interleukin 4 and interleukin 13. Historically, the treatment of patients with HIV with moderate to severe AD has been challenging, given the efficacy and adverse effect profile of systemic medications. The effect of dupilumab on patients with HIV is not known because these patients were excluded from clinical trials.

In the December 2020 edition of *JAAD Case Reports*, Alawadhi et al³ reported on the successful treatment of 4 patients with both HIV and AD with dupilumab. All 4 patients achieved rapid control of their AD and showed no significant change in their CD4 counts or viral loads over a span of 3 to 8 months. Although further studies are necessary to evaluate safety and efficacy, the results of this small

Abbreviations used:

AD: atopic dermatitis
Th: T helper

case series are intriguing and provide additional evidence for a treatment that can have a profound impact on a patient's quality of life.

Conflicts of interest

None disclosed.

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