

Caregiver-Reported Eczema Outcomes Among 4-Month Old Infants

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Introduction

- Eczema is a risk factor for developing peanut allergy. (1)
- For infants at high risk of developing peanut allergy (those with egg allergy and/or severe eczema), the NIAID's Prevention of Peanut Allergy (PPA) Guidelines recommend peanut allergy testing before early peanut introduction around 5-6 months of age. (2)
- This study aims to characterize eczema presentation and treatment in a cohort of infants.

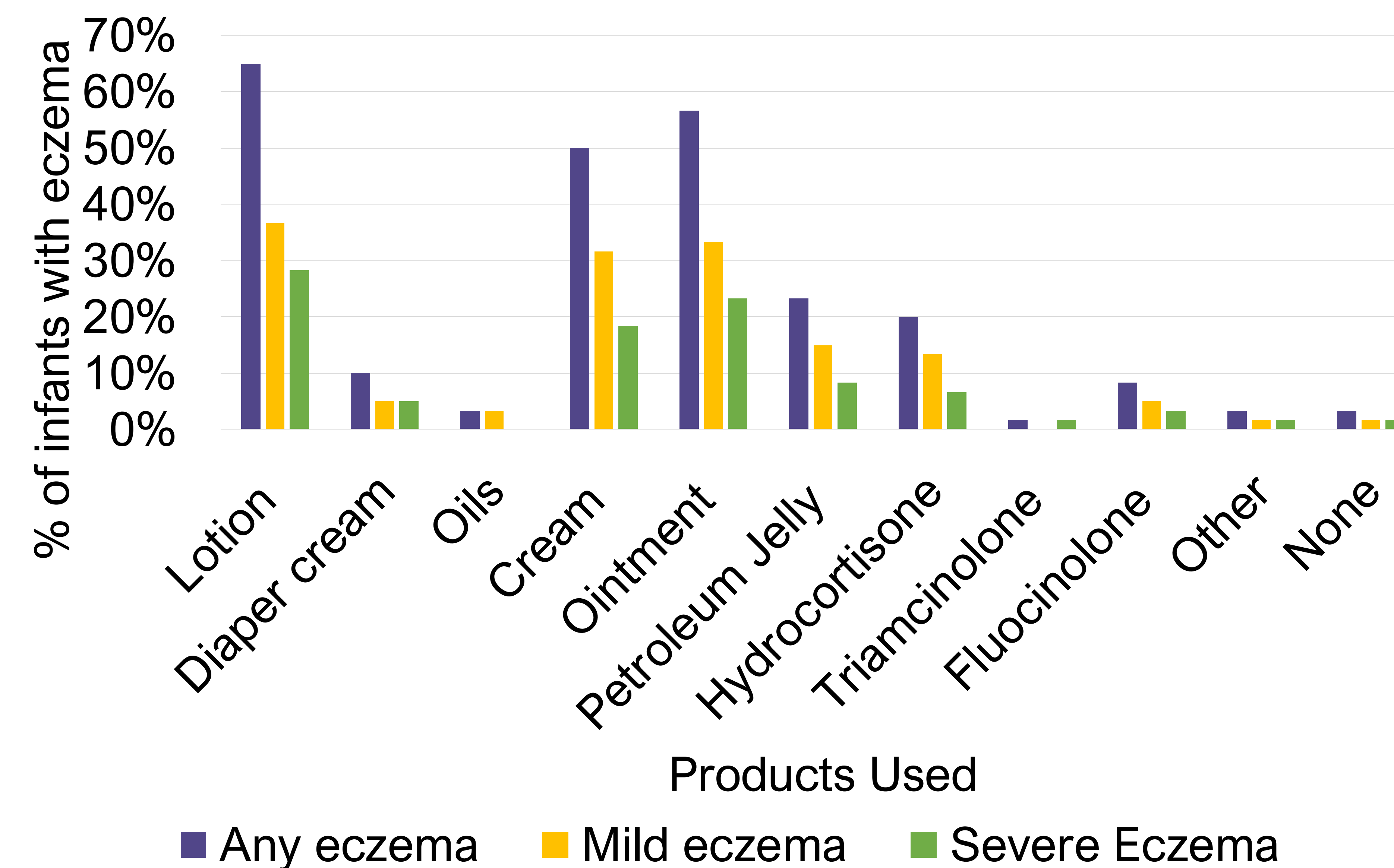
Methods

- Infants 2-3 months old were identified via electronic health records at 17 clinical practice sites in the Intervention to Prevent Early Peanut Allergy in Children (iREACH) clinical trial.
- Caregivers of the identified infants were invited to participate via email or text.
- Enrolled caregivers completed an online survey about their child's skin after their child's 4-month well childcare visit.
- Questions included the validated patient-oriented eczema measure (POEM), (3) asked about areas affected by eczema, and products used to treat eczema.
- Descriptive analyses were conducted.
- IRB approval was obtained.

Results

- In total, 346 caregivers completed surveys for their infants.
- After calculating POEM scores, 83% of infants (n=286) had no eczema, 10% (n=35) had mild eczema, 6% (n=22) had moderate eczema, and 1% (n=3) had severe eczema.
- Among those with any eczema (n=60), eczema most often presented on the head (scalp, face, cheeks) (73%).
- Eczema was present on the trunk (torso) for 63% of infants, the arms for 63% of infants, and the legs for 60% of infants.

Figure 1. Products Used to Treat Eczema (n=60)



Conclusion

- In this study, 17% of infants have some form of eczema, consistent with infant eczema rates reported in past literature.
- Caregivers are more likely to use over the counter products to treat their infant's eczema.
- Limitations of this study include caregiver recall bias.
- Considering that eczema is a risk factor for peanut allergy development, it is important to identify and treat eczema early to prevent peanut allergies.



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