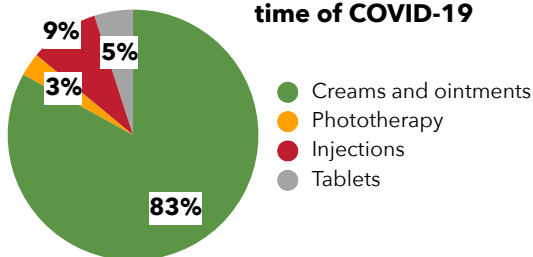


Dear eczema patient,

The SECURE-AD Patient Survey allows patients with atopic dermatitis (also known as AD or eczema) who have developed COVID-19 to report their experience. This will help us better understand how COVID-19 affects these people and how to improve their care.

We are very grateful to the +400 people with atopic dermatitis who registered on the SECURE-AD Patient Survey. So far **135 people** who have contracted COVID-19 have entered details of their infection in the survey. With even more patients, we will be able to provide more detailed and accurate information. As the number of cases is rising in many parts of the world, we thought it would be a good time to let you know what we have discovered so far about how COVID-19 affects patients with atopic dermatitis and **to ask for your help**.

Atopic dermatitis treatment at the time of COVID-19



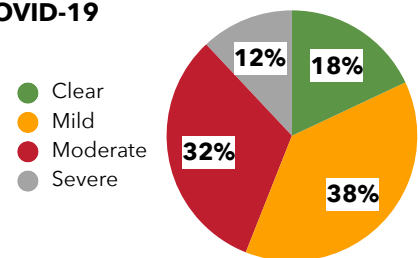
Around the world, most atopic dermatitis is treated with creams and ointments, rather than light treatment (phototherapy) or tablets or injection treatments. Therefore it is not surprising that most the survey responses come from patients using creams and ointments (83%).

We are very interested to see how atopic dermatitis medications that affect the immune system impact on what happens if our patients get COVID-19.

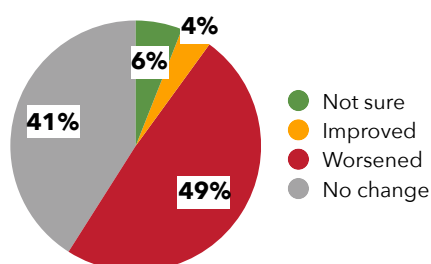
Most people who reported having COVID-19 in the SECURE-AD Patient Survey had mild atopic dermatitis (38%). Moderate atopic dermatitis (32%) and severe atopic dermatitis (12%) are more likely to require tablet or injectable treatments - medications that can affect the immune system.

Based on the current evidence, we cannot be sure how treatments which affect the immune system might influence what happens to patients who get COVID-19. With more surveys we hope to be able to provide more detailed information.

Severity of atopic dermatitis before COVID-19



Change in atopic dermatitis severity during COVID-19



Having an infection can cause worsening (flares) of atopic dermatitis. The majority (90%) of people completing the SECURE-AD Patient Survey reported that their eczema got worse or stayed the same during COVID-19. We do not know why this is: maybe general activation of the immune system, maybe stress of being unwell or maybe temporarily changing tablet or injection treatments when you are sick, on their Doctor's advice.

If you are unwell with COVID-19, try to continue using your creams and ointments to treat active atopic dermatitis. You should discuss any tablet or injection treatments with your doctor before stopping them.

How can you help us?

We have launched a Twitter account and an Instagram page to reach more patients with atopic dermatitis so they can complete the survey if they have COVID-19 (either suspected infections based on symptoms or infections confirmed with a test). Now is our opportunity to gather more information so we can analyse how having atopic dermatitis affects those who get COVID-19.

- ▶ **Twitter:** https://twitter.com/ad_secure
- ▶ **Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/securead>

Please follow us and share our posts. And **please encourage anyone you know with atopic dermatitis (eczema) who has had COVID-19 to complete the survey - they can report their case even if it was months ago.** It is also helpful if you tell your GP or dermatologist about the study. More information is available on our website: <https://www.secure-derm.com>

These are challenging times, and preventive measures for COVID-19 can be extra difficult for people with atopic dermatitis. If you feel like you need any extra support, you can reach out to your local atopic dermatitis patient organisation. Around the world, 21 atopic dermatitis patient organisations have become official partners of SECURE-AD! You can find more information and links to patient organisations websites by checking our website.

We are looking forward to see you on Social Media for more updates soon!

The SECURE-AD Research Team



www.secure-derm.com



secureadpatients@gmail.com



[@AD_secure](https://twitter.com/AD_secure)



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