

AAD Criteria for Diagnosing AD

ESSENTIAL FEATURES—Must be present:

- Pruritus
- Eczema (acute, subacute, chronic)
 - Typical morphology and age-specific patterns*
 - Chronic or relapsing history

*Patterns include:

1. Facial, neck, and extensor involvement in infants and children
2. Current or previous flexural lesions in any age group
3. Sparing of the groin and axillary regions

IMPORTANT FEATURES—Seen in most cases, adding support to the diagnosis:

- Early age of onset
- Atopy
 - Personal and/or family history
 - Immunoglobulin E reactivity
- Xerosis

ASSOCIATED FEATURES—These clinical associations help to suggest the diagnosis of atopic dermatitis but are too nonspecific to be used for defining or detecting atopic dermatitis for research and epidemiologic studies:

- Atypical vascular responses (eg, facial pallor, white dermographism, delayed blanch response)
- Keratosis pilaris/pityriasis alba/hyperlinear palms/ichthyosis
- Ocular/periorbital changes
- Other regional findings (eg, perioral changes/periauricular lesions)
- Perifollicular accentuation/lichenification/prurigo lesions

EXCLUSIONARY CONDITIONS—It should be noted that a diagnosis of atopic dermatitis depends on excluding conditions, such as:

- Scabies
- Seborrheic dermatitis
- Contact dermatitis (irritant or allergic)
- Ichthyoses
- Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma
- Psoriasis
- Photosensitivity dermatoses
- Immune deficiency diseases
- Erythroderma of other causes