

# AAD Criteria for Diagnosing AD

## **ESSENTIAL FEATURES** - Must be present:

- Pruritus
- Eczema (acute, subacute, chronic)
  - o Typical morphology and age-specific patterns\*
  - o 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
  - o Personal and/or family history
  - o 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