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**COST-EFFECTIVENESS ANALYSIS OF
TACROLIMUS OINTMENT AND TOPICAL
CORTICOSTEROIDS IN MODERATE TO SEVERE
ATOPIC DERMATITIS**

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Purpose. We have shown that the cost of illness for AD and eczema ranged from \$0.9 to \$3.8 billion for people <65 insured in the USA. We performed a cost-effectiveness analysis on topical therapies for AD.

Methods. We represented patients with moderate-to-severe AD not well controlled with mid-potency topical corticosteroids in a Markov model to compare tacrolimus ointment with topical high potency corticosteroids. Disease-controlled days are days in which patients experienced >75% improvement in their disease. Therapies were based on opinions of expert dermatologists and allergists. Costs came from fee schedules and wholesale prices. Sensitivity analyses were conducted for all variables.

Results. Using baseline assumptions, total disease-controlled days were similar between therapy groups. Total costs were higher for patients treated with high-potency topical corticosteroids due to secondary treatments such as antibiotics. The model was sensitive to corticosteroid efficacy rates, tachyphylaxis, and grams per day of therapy.

Conclusion. Tacrolimus ointment can be cost-effective compared to high-potency topical corticosteroids in treating moderate-to-severe AD.