Evidence Synthesis Ireland Fellowship Scheme
Review Identification Form

Review Centre/Group Mentor

Robert Boyle

Review title

Topical anti-inflammatory treatments for atopic eczema: a network meta-analysis

Review type

Cochrane Network Meta-analysis

Review information

This review has recently been awarded project funding by NIHR and has been prioritised by Cochrane Skin. The project will commence in August 2021 and run for 22 months. End users are healthcare providers and patients.

Review details

Background: Topical anti-inflammatory treatments are the most common treatment prescribed or used for managing moderate or severe eczema and acute eczema flares. Currently topical steroids and topical calcineurin inhibitors dominate the field, but a number of new therapeutics are in the process of applying for licences and the field will soon be complex. As with many fields in healthcare, most new treatments have been compared with placebo/vehicle control rather than other active treatments, and this makes it difficult for patients or prescribers to rationally choose between different forms of topical anti-inflammatory treatments.

Aim: To systematically review and meta-analyse existing clinical trial evidence on the effectiveness and safety of different topical anti-inflammatory treatments for eczema. This review will use network meta-analysis in order to indirectly compare the effectiveness and safety of different classes of topical anti-inflammatory treatments.

Methods: Standard Cochrane Methods will be used. We will include clinical trials of topical anti-inflammatory treatments compared with no treatment, placebo/vehicle control or other topical anti-inflammatory treatments, in adults and children with eczema (also known as atopic eczema or atopic dermatitis). Primary outcomes are eczema symptoms and signs and adverse events, determined using instruments recommended by the HOME core outcome set project. A frequentist approach will be employed for network meta-analysis.

Review current status

Not started

Any specific/desirable requirements for fellow (e.g. clinical expertise, methodological expertise)

Interest in eczema management and/or network meta-analysis

Estimated start and completion dates*

August 2021 to May 2023