Atopic dermatitis and *Staphylococcus aureus* secondary skin infections

CPD QUESTIONNAIRE

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1. A characteristic feature of patients with AD, compared to healthy individuals, is the abundant presence of:

- ☐ **A** *S. aureus*
- ☐ **B** *P. acnes*

2. *S. aureus* can be isolated from what percentage of AD skin lesions?

- ☐ **A** 30%
- ☐ **B** 79%
- ☐ **C** 90%

3. Patients with AD are strongly predisposed to the development of secondary staphylococcal infections due to:

- ☐ **A** Skin barrier abnormalities
- ☐ **B** Defects in the innate immune response
- ☐ **C** Colonisation of the stratum corneum by *S. aureus*
- ☐ **D** All of the above
- ☐ **E** B and C

4. The number of *S. aureus* organisms in AD patients is 100-fold higher than in healthy individuals.

- ☐ **A** True
- ☐ **B** False

5. Which statement is false? Skin colonisation by *S. aureus* in those with AD:

- ☐ **A** Has a toxic effect on keratinocytes
- ☐ **B** Decreases production of IgE
- ☐ **C** Stimulates secretion of proinflammatory cytokines

6. The *S. aureus* strains isolated from the skin of patients with AD release which toxins?

- ☐ **A** Staphylococcal enterotoxins A, B and C
- ☐ **B** TSST-1
- ☐ **C** A and B

7. What percentage of *S. aureus* strains is estimated to produce superantigens?

- ☐ **A** 30%
- ☐ **B** 70%
- ☐ **C** 65%
- ☐ **D** 55%

8. SSAgs:

- ☐ **A** Trigger T cell activation by binding non-specifically to the T cell receptors without the need for antigen presentation
- ☐ **B** Penetrate the skin barrier and contribute to the development of chronic inflammation in the atopic skin lesions
- ☐ **C** Make T cells unresponsive to topical corticosteroids
- ☐ **D** Make patients with AD insensitive to treatment with topical corticosteroids
- ☐ **E** All of the above
- ☐ **F** A and B only

9. *S. aureus* colonises up to 60% of AD patients.

- ☐ **A** True
- ☐ **B** False

10. Colonisation by *S. aureus* in patients with AD may increase:

- ☐ **A** The EASI
- ☐ **B** The number of doctor's consultations per year
- ☐ **C** AD exacerbations
- ☐ **D** Inflammation
- ☐ **E** All of the above
- ☐ **F** A, C and D

11. What percentage of *S. aureus* strains colonising the skin in patients with AD are estimated to be MRSA strains?

- ☐ **A** 30%
- ☐ **B** 60%
- ☐ **C** 70%
- ☐ **D** 100%

12. The mainstay of anti-inflammatory therapy in the management of chronic AD is:

- ☐ **A** Topical antibiotics
- ☐ **B** Topical corticosteroids
- ☐ **C** Oral corticosteroids
- ☐ **D** Oral antibiotics

13. Which statement is false?

- ☐ **A** All AD patients show significant improvement with low/moderate-potency topical corticosteroid therapy
- ☐ **B** Prolonged use of high-potency topical corticosteroids or systemic corticosteroids places patients at risk for adverse effects
- ☐ **C** Topical antibiotics enable high doses on the skin, without the side effects inherently associated with oral antibiotics

14. Which statement is true?

- ☐ **A** Combination topical corticosteroid/antibiotic is significantly more effective at reducing skin inflammation due to secondarily infected AD than using either agent alone
- ☐ **B** Antibiotics have anti-inflammatory actions which could have effects on bacterial attachment
- ☐ **C** A and B

15. Which of the listed antibiotics are recommended as first-line therapy for infected AD?

- ☐ **A** Mupirocin and fusidic acid
- ☐ **B** Neomycin and gentamicin
- ☐ **C** β-lactams and macrolides
- ☐ **D** A and C

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