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Psoriasis of childhood and adolescence

Psoriasis is a chronic immune-mediated inflammatory skin disease that appears in about 3% of the general population. In approximately one third of the cases it begins in childhood or adolescence. As in adults, also in children plaque-type psoriasis is the most common type of the disease. Guttate form is the second most common type of psoriasis in this age group, mostly followed by streptococcal infection. Up to 71% of children have a positive family history of psoriasis. As in adulthood also paediatric psoriasis can been associated with certain comorbidities, such as obesity, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus and rheumatoid arthritis. Treatment of the disease is determined based on the severity of the disease and especially in childhood remains a challenge. In moderate to severe form of childhood psoriasis, where topical therapy is not effective in the long run, narrow band UVB and systemic therapy (methotrexate as most often prescribed) can be valuable, safe and effective way of the

therapy. However, more evidence based data is needed about effectiveness and long-term safety of such therapies in children.

Speaker Biography

Mateja Starbek graduated medicine in 2000 at the Medical faculty, University of Ljubljana. In 2006 she obtained a master's degree in Biomedicine, in 2010 specialisation in Dermatovenereology and in 2018 PhD in the field of Biomedicine. She is Head of Children's department in Dermatovenereology Clinic of University Medical Centre Ljubljana and takes part in teaching process as assistant at Medical faculty, University of Ljubljana. She is one of the leading dermatologists in the field of paediatric dermatology and psoriasis in Slovenia and one of the lecturers of the School of Paediatric Dermatology, Atopic Dermatitis and in the School of patients with psoriasis treated with biologic drugs. She is a member of the European Academy of Dermatology and Venereology (EADV), European Society for Paediatric Dermatology (ESPD) and the Association of Slovenian Dermatovenereologists (ZSD).

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