

## Stem cells from umbilical cord blood may help treat eczema

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A new study suggests that treatment with stem cells from umbilical cord blood might be an effective therapy for patients with moderate-to-severe eczema, or atopic dermatitis.

For the clinical trial, 34 patients were randomly assigned to receive a low dose or <u>high dose</u> of the cells subcutaneously. Fifty five percent of patients who received the high dose showed a 50% reduction in what's known as the Eczema Area and Severity Index score at week 12. Immune-related markers of <u>atopic dermatitis</u> also decreased significantly.

"This study is a first-in-class study demonstrating that adults with moderate-to-severe atopic dermatitis responded to a treatment of stem cells derived from <u>umbilical cord blood</u>," said Dr. Tae-Yoon Kim, senior author of the *Stem Cells* study. "The single treatment of stem cells in patients resulted in the significant and persistent improvement in disease symptoms throughout the follow-up period of 12 weeks."

**More information:** Hyung-Sik Kim et al, Clinical Trial of Human Umbilical Cord Blood-derived Stem Cells for the Treatment of Moderate-to-Severe Atopic Dermatitis: Phase I/IIa Studies, *STEM CELLS* (2016). DOI: 10.1002/stem.2401

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