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Title: Role of eczema as a risk factor for allergic rhinitis in adolescents

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Body: Introduction: Allergic rhinitis (AR) is one of the most important chronic diseases affecting adolescents. AR often occurs together with eczema. Aim: To investigate prevalence of eczema and/or positive family history of eczema in adolescents with AR and without AR. Material and methods: A cross-sectional study conducted on a convenient sample of 300 adolescents with AR (180 boys and 120 girls), aged 14-17, and equal number of adolescents without AR matched by sex and age selected from three different provinces in Greece. Retrospective analysis of AR and eczema was based on anamnesis and data from medical archives. Results: Eczema is presented in 34% of adolescents with AR (35% of the boys and 33% of the girls). The prevalence of eczema was significantly higher in adolescents with AR compared to adolescents without AR (34% vs 6%, $p < 0,01$). Positive family history of eczema had 31% of adolescents with AR (33% of the boys and 29% of the girls) and its prevalence was significantly higher compared to adolescents without AR (31% vs 5%, $p < 0,01$). Conclusion: Results confirm the role of eczema (personal or family history) as a risk factor for AR in adolescents.