

# Children's Health

## Dramatically Different Drug Eases Itchy Eczema

(NAPSA)—There could be good news for children and adults itching to tame the symptoms of eczema. Eczema is a potentially life-altering skin condition that affects more than 15 million Americans. It's characterized by painfully itchy, red, swollen, flaky skin.

Scientists are seeing dramatic results from a breakthrough class of prescription medications called topical immunomodulators (TIMs).

There are currently two TIMs available. Although indicated for different types of eczema, both have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in children over 24 months of age.

The first TIM, Protopic® (tacrolimus ointment), was proven safe and effective in clinical studies with more than 13,000 adults and children. Used alone, without the aid of steroid treatments, it significantly improved or cleared the signs and symptoms of eczema. Many clinical study patients showed marked improvement in their first few weeks of treatment.

Protopic is used for patients with moderate to severe eczema who do not respond well to or may have side effects with traditional treatments. It can be used for short or repeated periods of treatment.

"Significant results were achieved with Protopic in clinical trials," said Dr. Ana Duarte, Director, Division of Dermatology, Children's Skin Center, P.A., Miami Children's Hospital. "What is particularly important to the medical community and to patients is that these results were achieved without alternating steroids to help manage flare-ups."



**Big news for little ones: Steroid-free medication can be used to help clear up eczema even in children as young as 2.**

Because Protopic is steroid-free, it can be used on the highly visible areas of the face, hands, and neck without the risk of skin thinning or stretch marks. The most common adverse effects reported in the clinical studies were stinging, burning and itching upon application. There are two concentrations of Protopic. Only the lower concentration is approved for children ages 2 to 15. There may be an increased risk of certain types of skin infections for patients using Protopic. In addition, patients should avoid direct exposure to natural or artificial sunlight and should not cover treated skin with bandages, dressing or wraps.

For more information about advances in healing eczema, call toll free 1-800-727-7003 or visit [www.protopic.com](http://www.protopic.com) for important product information.