Types of Eczema

**Occupational dermatitis**
- Chemical plant workers
- Machine tool setters
- Coach and spray painters
- Metal workers
- Hairdressers
- Biological scientists
- Laboratory workers
- Nurses
- Catering workers

**Irritant contact dermatitis**
- Past or present atopic dermatitis doubles the risk of irritant hand eczema
- Reversible in the early stages
- Loss of work
- Complications

**Atopic eczema**
- Delayed (type IV) hypersensitivity
- Previous contact is needed specific to one chemical
- Sensitization persists indefinitely
- Desensitization is seldom possible

Well-known allergens
- Metals
  - Chrome
  - Cement
- Paint
- Nickels
  - Fake jewellery
  - Jean studs
- Cosmetics
  - Fragrance mix
  - Medicaments
  - Neomycin
- Rubber
  - Resins
  - Colophony
  - Plaster

**Allergic contact dermatitis**
- Excess IgE produced as a response to allergen
  - 75% begin before 6 months
  - 90% before age of 5 years
- Distribution similar to that in childhood
- More lichenification
- Chronic itching and scratching
- Major
- Personal or first degree family history of atopy
- Dry skin
- History of eczema
- Visible flexural eczema
- Onset before 2 years of age
- Bacterial superinfections
- Viral superinfections
- Disturb sleep
- Poor growth
- Prick test
- High IgE level
- RAST test
- Explain and reassure
- Avoid exacerbating factors
- Review their use regularly
- Weakest to control
- Topical steroids
- Avoid potent steroids
- S/E: Burning sensation
- Tacrolimus

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- **Infancy**
  - On face
  - Patchy all over the body, sparing napkin area
  - Weeping and vesicular

- **Childhood**
  - Knees and elbows flexural areas
  - Ankles and wrists
  - Leathery, dry, with excoriations
  - Distribution similar to that in childhood
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- **Adults**
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**Differential diagnosis**
- Atopic eczema
- Allergic contact dermatitis

**Criteria**
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**Exposure to allergens**
- 3 out of 5 minor

**Complications**
- Loss of work

**Treatment**
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