Allergy-immunology glossary

Zeinab A. El-Sayed
Pediatric Allergy, Immunology and Rheumatology Unit, Children’s Hospital, Ain-Shams University

Towards a clear designation of some of the terms used in allergology and immunology.

| **Atopic dermatitis (AD)** | AD is a common chronic inflammatory skin disorder characterised by recurrent eczematosus lesions and intense itch. The disorder affects people of all ages and ethnicities with substantial patient and population burdens. 1,2 Controversy remains regarding the nomenclature of AD. In 2004, the World Allergy Organization (WAO) released a consensus statement approving the use of the term eczema, instead of AD.3 Despite the WAO consensus statement, a variety of other terms are being used instead of the term AD, including atopic eczema.4 |
| **Preschool wheeze (PSW)** | PSW is defined as wheezing before the age of 6 years. This is the most accepted definition, but there is considerable variation among countries with respect to the age.5 |

REFERENCES