

Scratch meters as an outcome measure for eczema research

Title: Validation of an objective measure of scratch in patients with eczema.

What is the study about?

This six-month study aims to assess the usefulness of using scratch accelerometers (scratch meters worn like a wristwatch) to record night-time scratching in children with eczema. The people taking part in the study will also be asked to say how they felt about wearing the watches.

What will happen?

Between 18-24 children who have been seen at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham for the treatment of their eczema are being asked to take part between January 2006 and April 2006. The children will wear the watches every night for a period of one month. The reserachers will then compare the scratch scores (measured using the watches) with other commonly used ways of capturing how bad the eczema has been. This will include assessments of the skin by a doctor or nurse, questionnaires and patients' scratch diaries.

This study will be used to assess the suitability of using nocturnal scratching as an outcome measure for future clinical trials.

Researchers

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