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## Atopic dermatitis



### THE COMPARISON

- A** Pink scaling plaques and erythematous erosions in the antecubital fossae of a 6-year-old White boy.
- B** Violaceous, hyperpigmented, nummular plaques on the back and extensor surface of the right arm of a 16-month-old Black girl.
- C** Atopic dermatitis and follicular prominence/accentuation on the neck of a young Black girl.



### Epidemiology

People of African descent have the highest atopic dermatitis prevalence and severity.

### Key clinical features in people with darker skin tones include:

- follicular prominence
- papular morphology
- prurigo nodules
- hyperpigmented, violaceous-brown or gray plaques instead of erythematous plaques
- lichenification
- treatment resistant.<sup>1,2</sup>

### Worth noting

Postinflammatory hyperpigmentation and postinflammatory hypopigmentation may be more distressing to the patient/family than the atopic dermatitis itself.

### Health disparity highlight

In the United States, patients with skin of color are more likely to be hospitalized with severe atopic dermatitis, have more substantial out-of-pocket costs, be underinsured, and have an increased number of missed days of work. Limited access to outpatient health care plays a role in exacerbating this health disparity.<sup>3,4</sup>

**JFP**



IMAGES COURTESY OF RICHARD P. USATINE, MD

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