



# Recent Advances in Dermatology for the Allergist

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# Disclosures

Consultant: *Arcutis*

Speaker: *Arcutis and Sanofi-Regeneron*

# Goals

- Discuss a new take on an old allergen: meet the 2024 Contact Allergen of the Year
- Describe new innovations in topical therapy for Atopic Dermatitis
- Review more recently reported potential adverse effects of Dupilumab
- Discuss classification of immune related cutaneous adverse events (irAER) to immune checkpoint inhibitors (ICI) and newer concepts on therapy

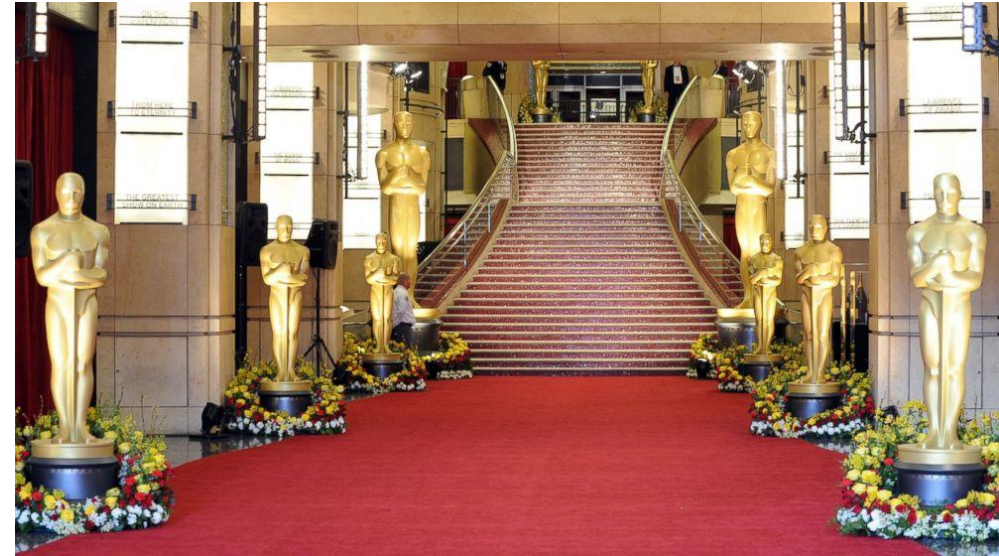
# Contact Allergen of the Year 2024: Sulfites

- Multiple uses:
  - Industrial
  - Personal care products
  - Food and beverage
- Act as preservative and anti-oxidant
  - Prevent microbial growth
  - Prevent oxidation to preserve shelf life of food/beverage



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**TABLE 4. Commercially Available Sulfites Used in Food and Cosmetics**

Compound	Chemical Formula	CAS Number	E Number	Food	Cosmetics
Sodium sulfite	Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub>	7757-83-7	E221	Yes	Yes
Sodium bisulfite	NaHSO <sub>3</sub>	7631-90-5	E222	Yes	Yes
Sodium metabisulfite	Na <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	7681-57-4	E223	Yes	Yes
Potassium sulfite	K <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub>	10117-38-1	E225	Yes	Yes
Potassium bisulfite	KHSO <sub>3</sub>	7773-03-7	E228	Yes	Yes
Potassium metabisulfite	K <sub>2</sub> S <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub>	16731-55-8	E224	Yes	Yes
Calcium sulfite	CaSO <sub>3</sub>	10257-55-3	E226	Yes	No
Calcium bisulfite	Ca (HSO <sub>3</sub> ) <sub>2</sub>	13780-03-5	E227	Yes	No
Ammonium bisulfite	NH <sub>4</sub> HSO <sub>3</sub>	10192-30-0	—	No	Yes
Ammonium sulfite	(NH <sub>4</sub> ) <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>3</sub>	7026-44-7	—	No	Yes

Sulfites: Allergen of the Year 2024. Dermatitis<sup>®</sup>: ahead of print

# Sulfites

- Not included in routine patch testing: contact dermatitis to sulfites likely under-reported
  - Prevalence hard to estimate, likely exceeds 1% of tested populations
  - Included in NACDG but not ACDS Core Series or TRUE test
  - Clinical relevance: 50-65.2% in various studies
- When tested, 28.8% of reactors had facial dermatitis and/or hand dermatitis (20.5%)
- Rare association with Type I reactions including anaphylaxis and urticaria
  - Led to FDA ban on use of sulfites on fresh fruit

# Common Medications Containing Sulfites

- Antifungal creams/ shampoo
- Topical steroids
- Hemorrhoidal creams
- Ophthalmologic solutions
- Epinephrine





FOR USE IN THE EARS ONLY  
NOT FOR USE IN THE EYES

**DESCRIPTION:**  
Neomycin and Polymyxin B Sulfates and Hydrocortisone Otic Suspension is a corticosteroid and anti-inflammatory solution for otic use.

Each mL Contains: **ACTIVES:** Neomycin Sulfate equivalent to 35,000 units, Polymyxin B Sulfate equivalent to 10,000 polymyxin B units, Hydrocortisone Acetate, Hydrochloric Acid, Potassium Metabisulfite, Cupric Sulfate Pentahydrate. pH = 2.0 to 4.5.

Neomycin Sulfate is the sulfate salt of neomycin B and C.

Ketoconazole Cream  
Day 6 (TEVA)  
E13

B



# Personal Care Products with Sulfites

- Shampoos
- Hair coloring agents (Dyes and bleaches)
- Hair sprays
- Tanning lotions
- Facial cleansers and body washes
- Sunscreens
- Eye creams and antiaging products
- Deodorants

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# Occupational Exposures

- Brewing and wine making
- Photographic chemicals
- Leather manufacturing
- Food preparation
- Pharmaceutical production
- Rubber manufacturing

# Dietary Exposures

- Apricots and avocados
- Jams and Jellies
- Beer
- Wine (sulfites added during fermentation)
- High dietary exposure can predispose patients to systemic contact dermatitis





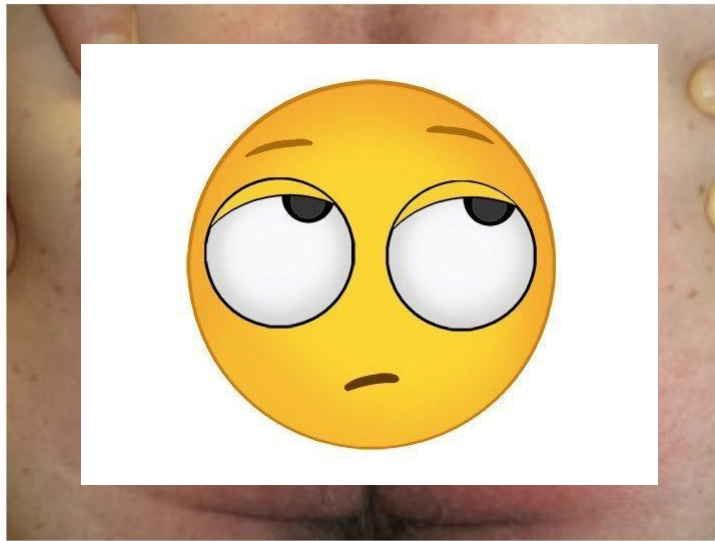
# Symmetrical drug-related intertriginous and flexural exanthema (SDRIFE) or 'Baboon Syndrome'

Clinical presentation of SDRIFE



# Symmetrical drug-related intertriginous and flexural exanthema (SDRIFE)

## Clinical presentation of SDRIFE







# ONE OF THE MOST BIZARRE FORMS OF LIFE

## LIVING FOSSIL

Lichens, like the ones you see here, are one of the most bizarre forms of life because each lichen is actually composed of two, possibly even three, distinct species of organisms! Lichens are a partnership between fungus and algae that grow on rocks, tree branches and the bare ground. Lichens are considered living fossil plants, since they are directly linked to the original plant life that first inhabited the Earth.





# New Topical Therapies for the Treatment of Atopic Dermatitis

- Steroid overuse: cutaneous atrophy, steroid withdrawal, and steroid addiction. Patients and parents of children with AD may have 'steroid phobia'
- Older non-steroid options include topical calcineurin inhibitors and crisaborole ointment
  - Potency issues
    - Can cause burning and stinging on application
- New Tools for the toolbox are needed!



# New Topical Therapies for the Treatment of Atopic Dermatitis

- More than twenty new topical therapies are in development for the treatment of Atopic Dermatitis
- Approved: ruxolitinib 1.5% cream
- Others are in various stages of development for treatment of atopic dermatitis
  - Tapinarof
  - Difamilast and roflumilast
  - Delgocitinib



## TOPICAL MOLECULES

### APPROVED AGENTS

Delgocitinib

Pan- JAK

Approved in Japan (2020)

Ruxolitinib

JAK1/JAK3

FDA Approval (2021)

Difamilast

PDE4

Approved in Japan (2021)

### IN DEVELOPMENT

Tapinarof

AHR

Phase 3

Roflumilast

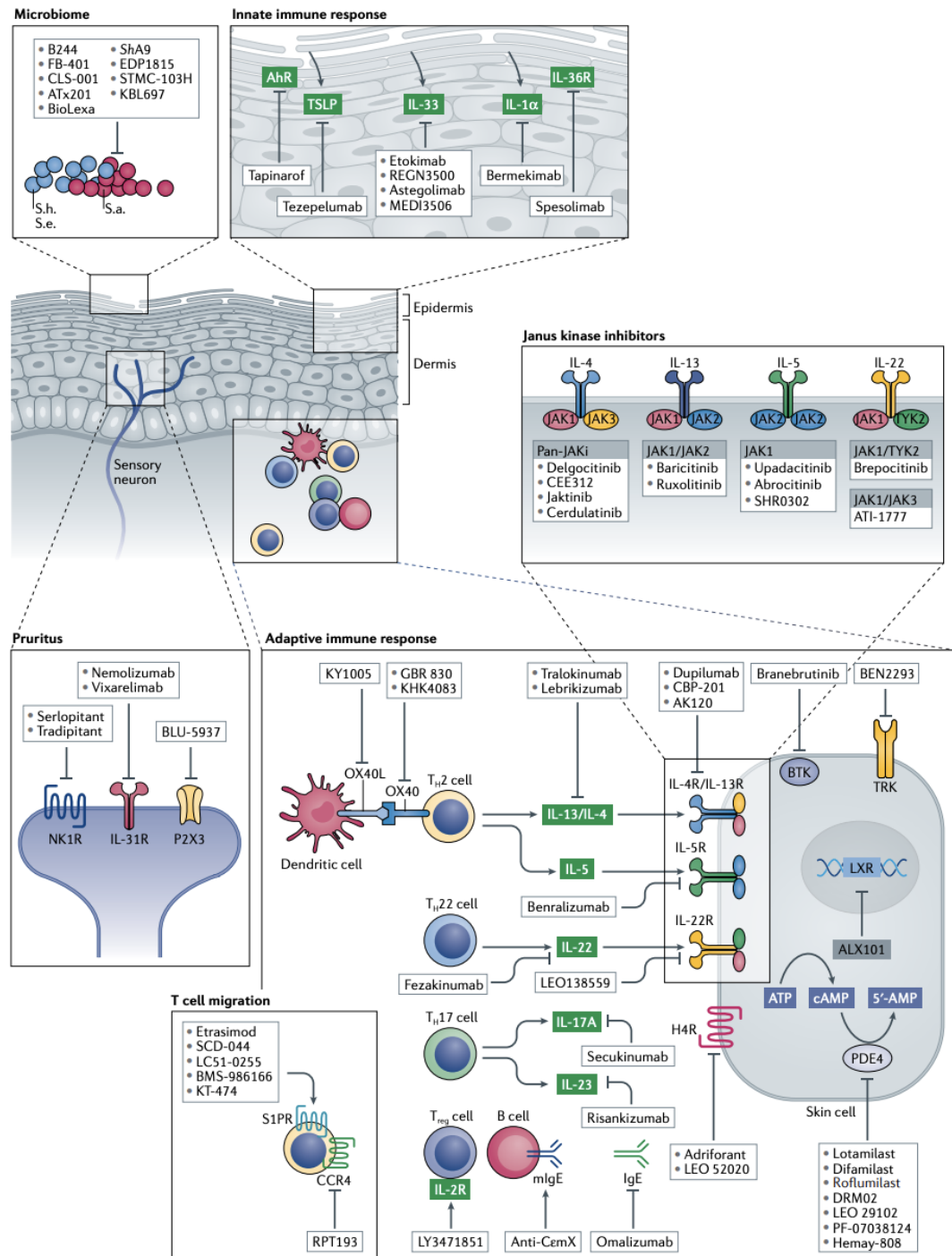
PDE4

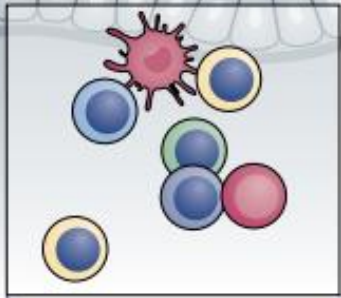
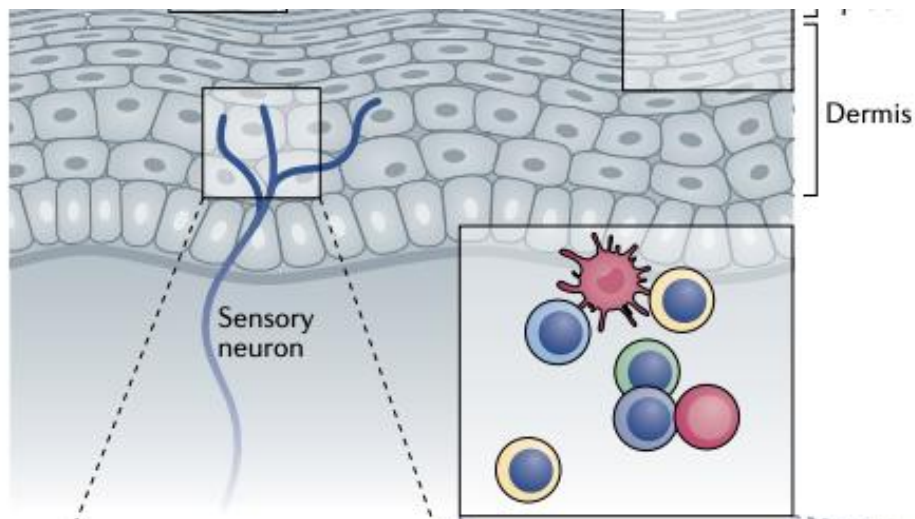
Phase 3

Ivarmacitinib

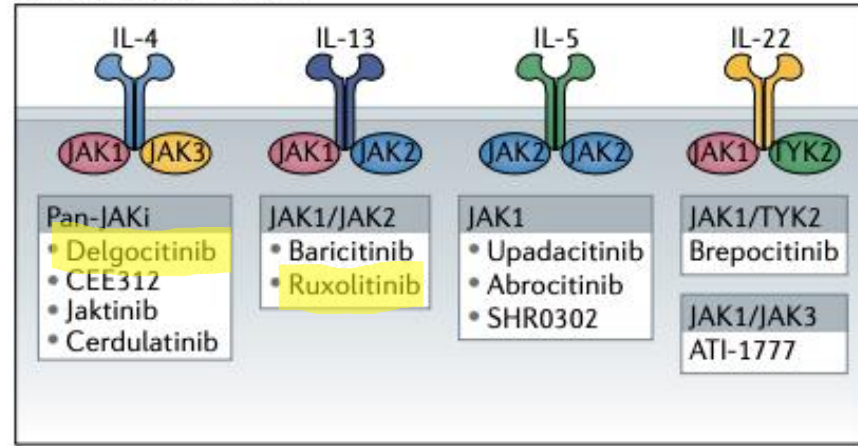
JAK1

Phase 3

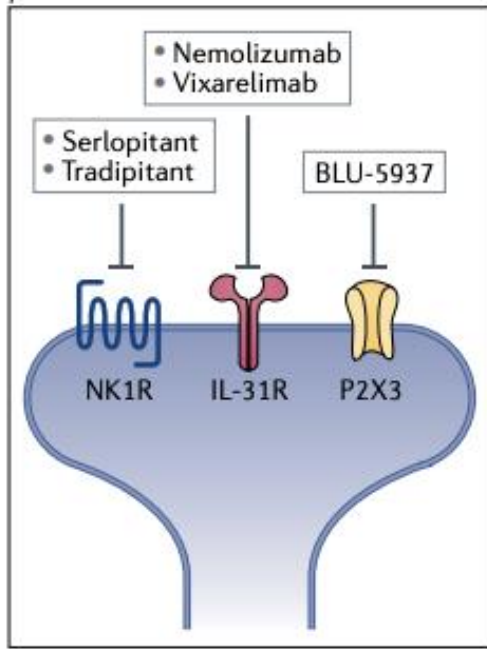




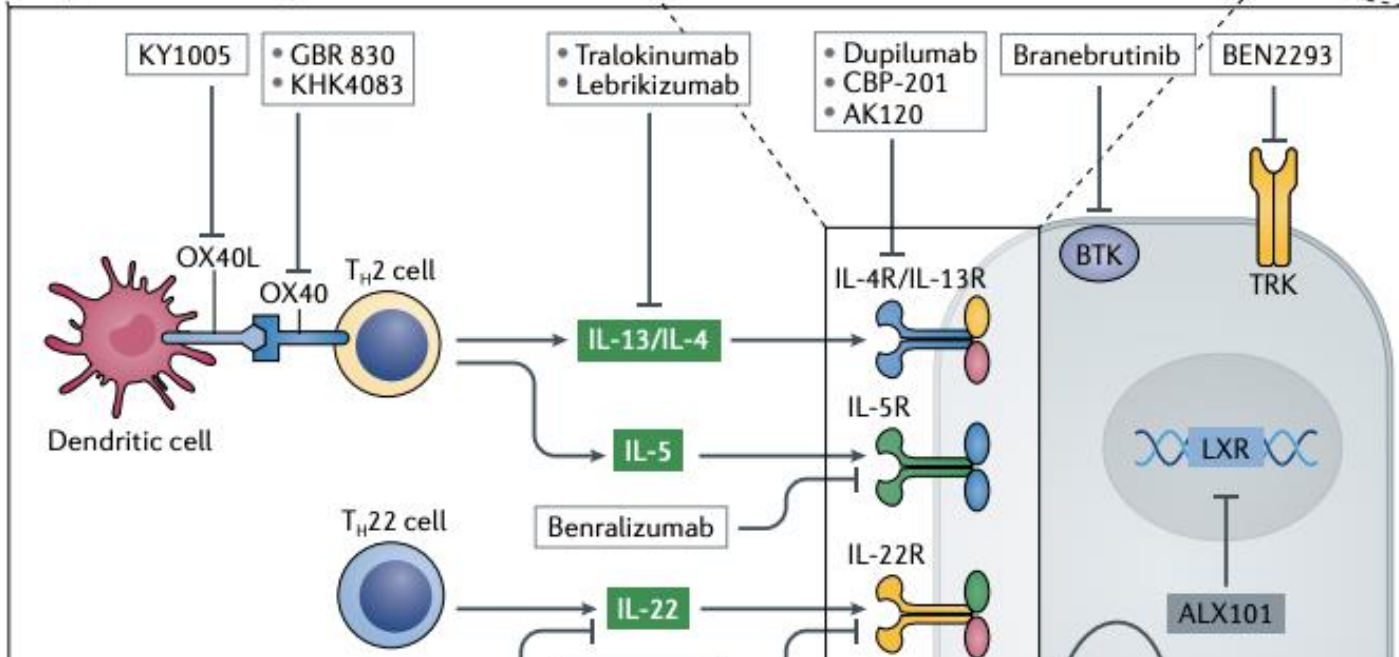
### Janus kinase inhibitors



### Pruritus

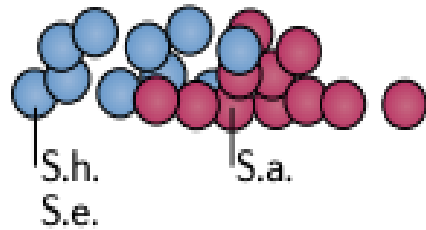


### Adaptive immune response

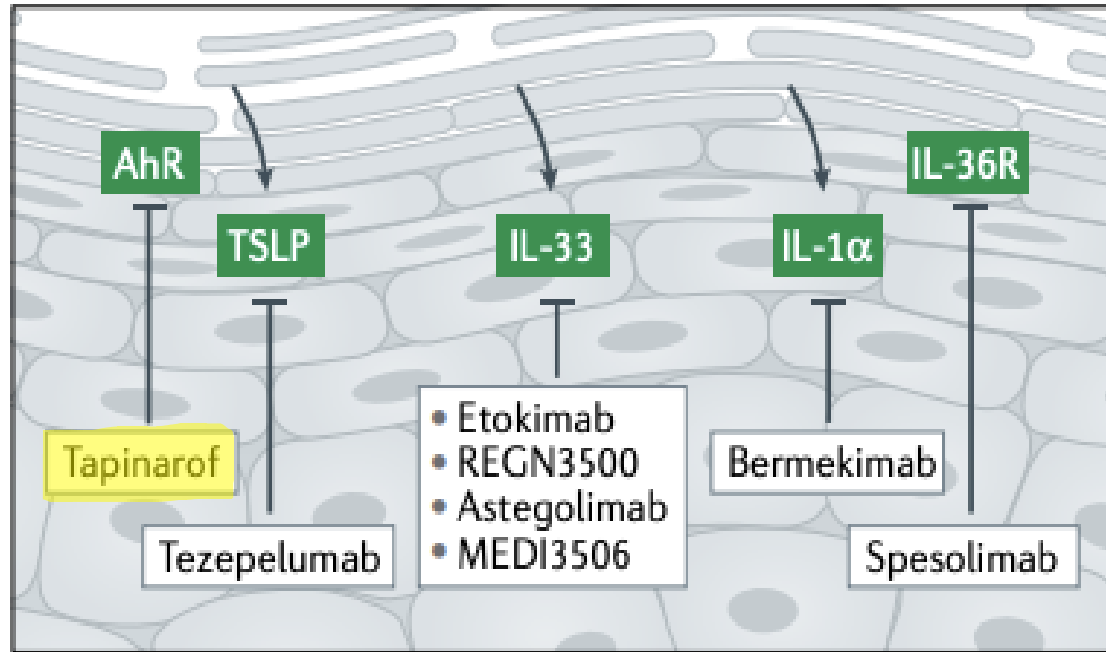


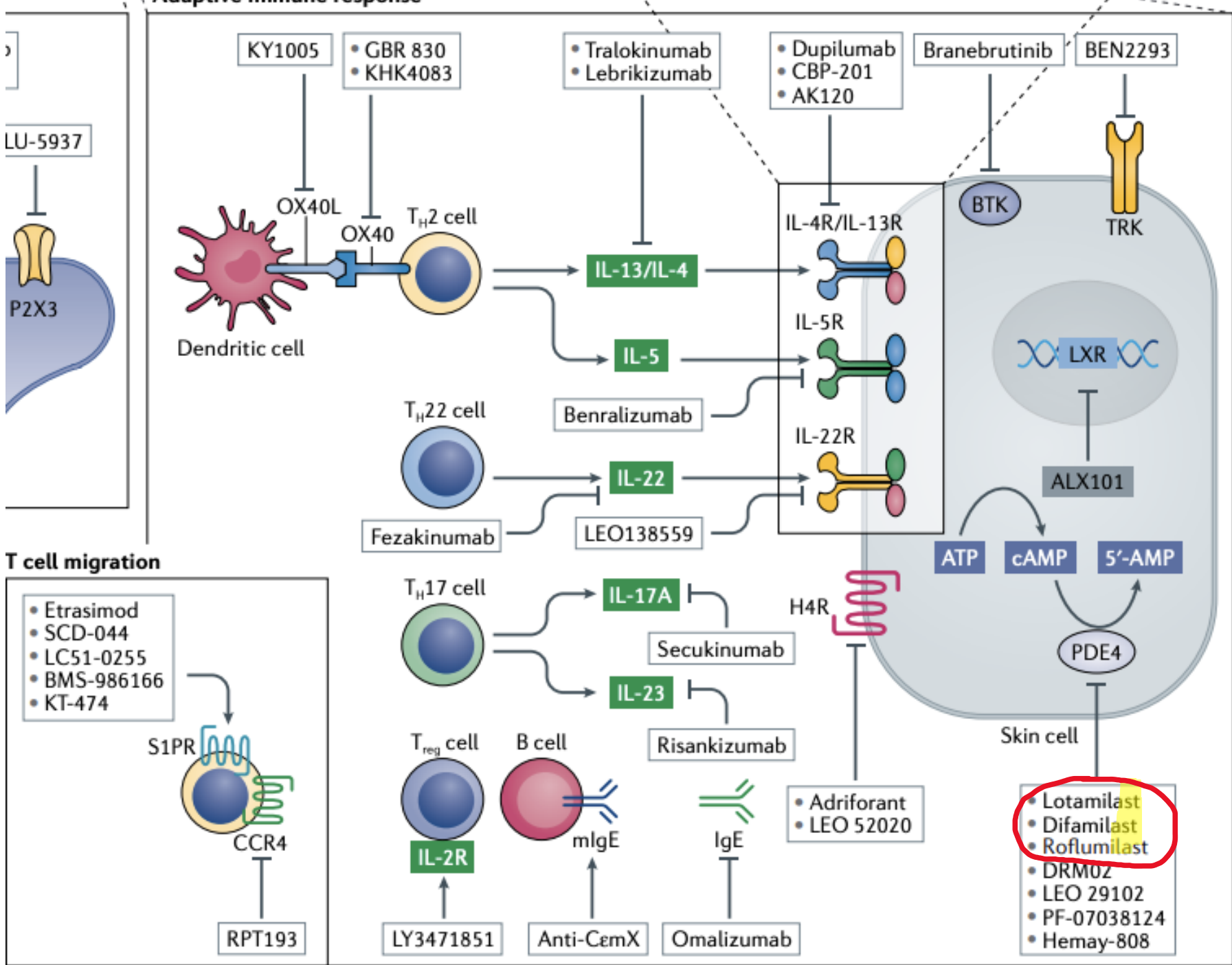
## Microbiome

- B244
- FB-401
- CLS-001
- ATx201
- BioLexa
- ShA9
- EDP1815
- STMC-103H
- KBL697



## Innate immune response





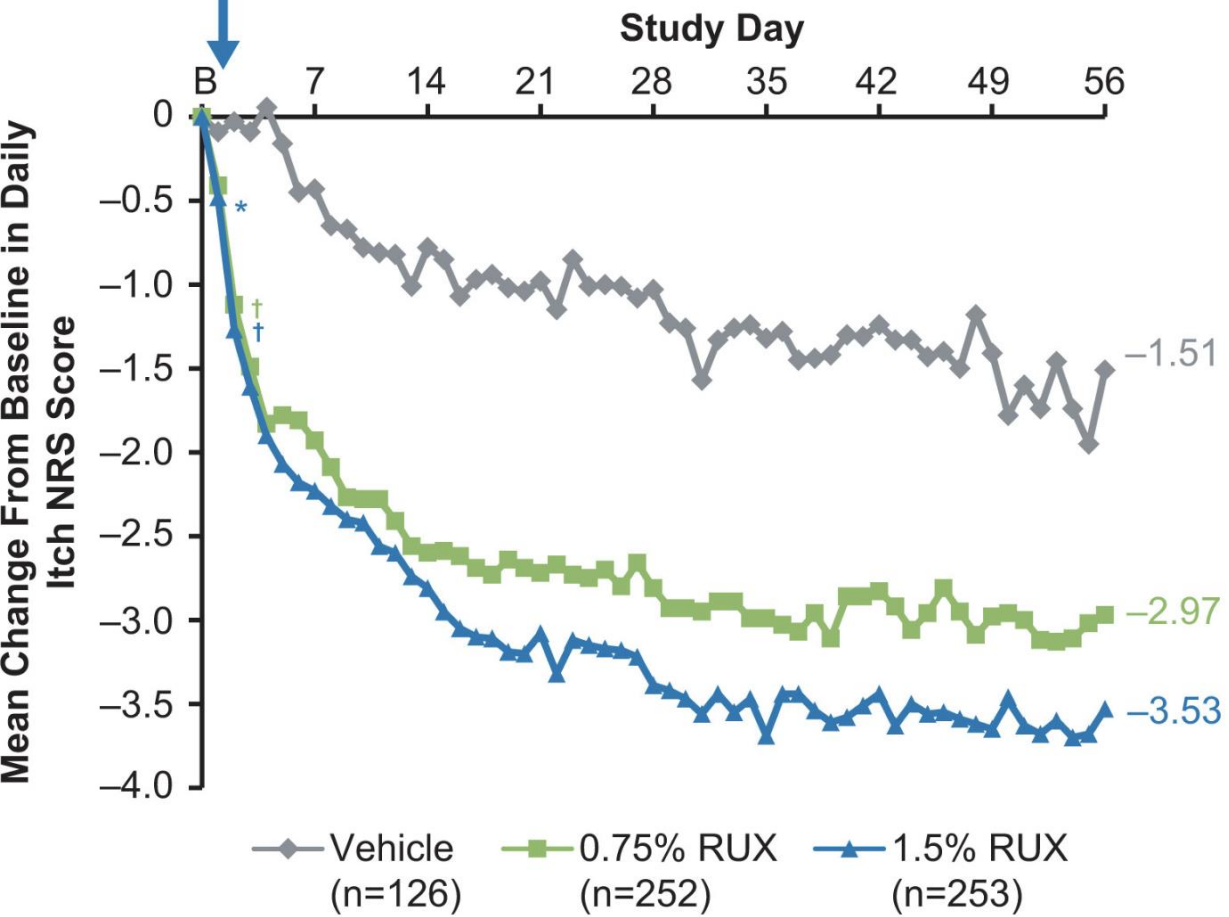


# New Topical Therapies for the Treatment of Atopic Dermatitis

- Ruxolitinib 1.5% cream received FDA approval for treatment of AD in 2021
  - Dual JAK1/2 inhibitor
  - Approved for non-continuous treatment of mild to moderate AD for age  $\geq 12$
  - Limit use to no greater than 20% TBSA or 1 tube per week to avoid systemic absorption
- Pooled analysis of TRuE-AD1/TRuE-AD2 trials demonstrate that ruxolitinib significantly improves AD lesions and pruritus as early as Week 2 with steady improvement to week 8
  - EASI-75 at week 8 was achieved by 62.1% and 61.8% on 1.5% cream vs. 24.6% and 14.4% on vehicle ( $p < 0.05$ )
- Rare application site irritation and acneiform eruptions ('Jakne') can occur
  - 15/17 patients (88.2%) with a reported location had facial involvement
  - Mild to moderate in severity

12 h ( $P < .02$  [1.5% RUX])

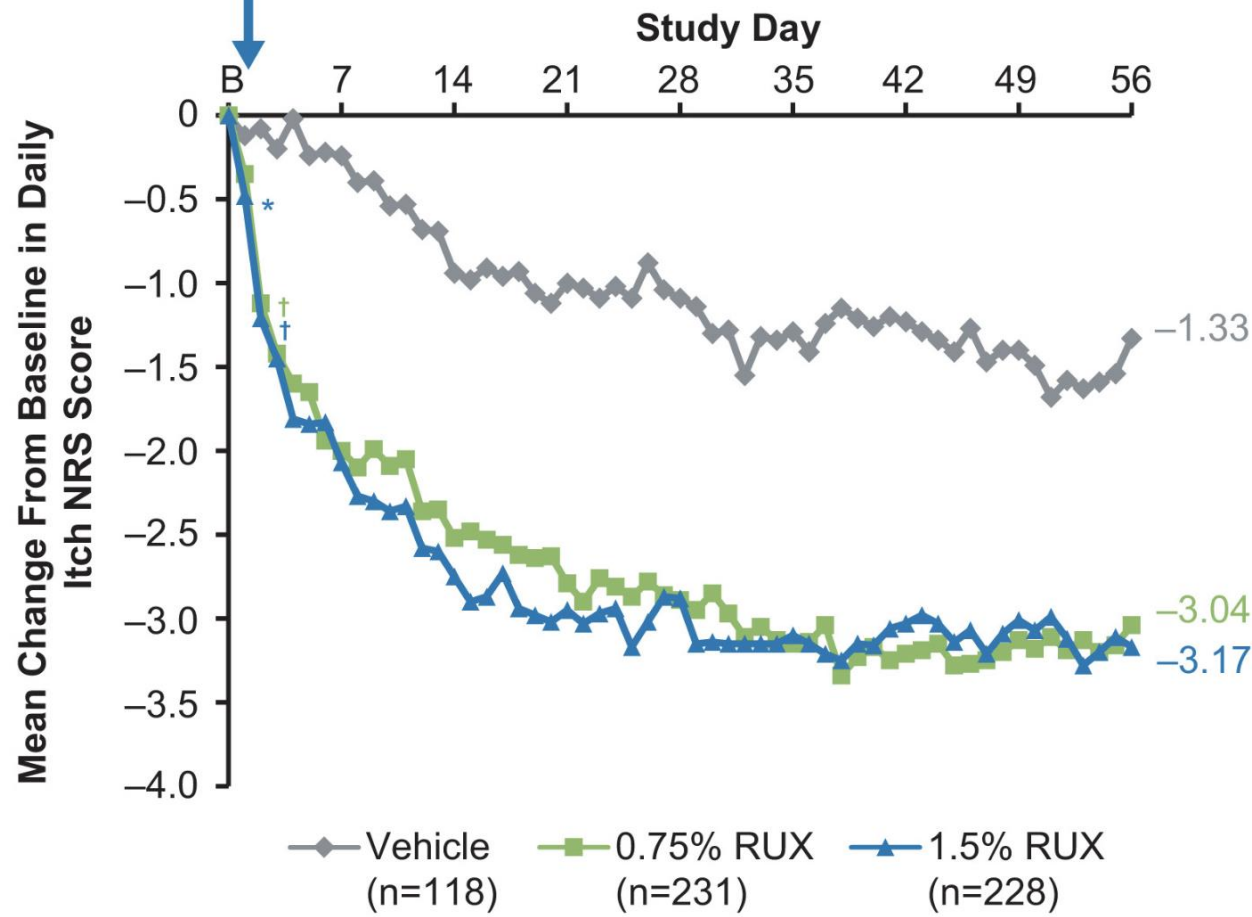
## TRuE-AD1



Number of Patients	Day 14	Day 28	Day 56
Vehicle	105	94	59
0.75% RUX	208	199	146
1.5% RUX	218	220	158

12 h ( $P < .03$  [1.5% RUX])

## TRuE-AD2



Number of Patients	Day 14	Day 28	Day 56
Vehicle	99	96	64
0.75% RUX	190	86	129
1.5% RUX	190	184	149





'JAKne'



# Guidelines of care for the management of atopic dermatitis in adults with topical therapies

- Strong Evidence Supports use of:
  - Topical corticosteroids
  - Topical calcineurin inhibitors
    - Pimecrolimus 1%
    - Tacrolimus 0.1 and 0.03%
  - Topical PDE4i
    - Crisaborole 2% ointment
    - (Roflumilast/Difamilast)?
  - Topical JAKi
    - Ruxolitinib 1.5% cream
    - (Delgocitinib)?















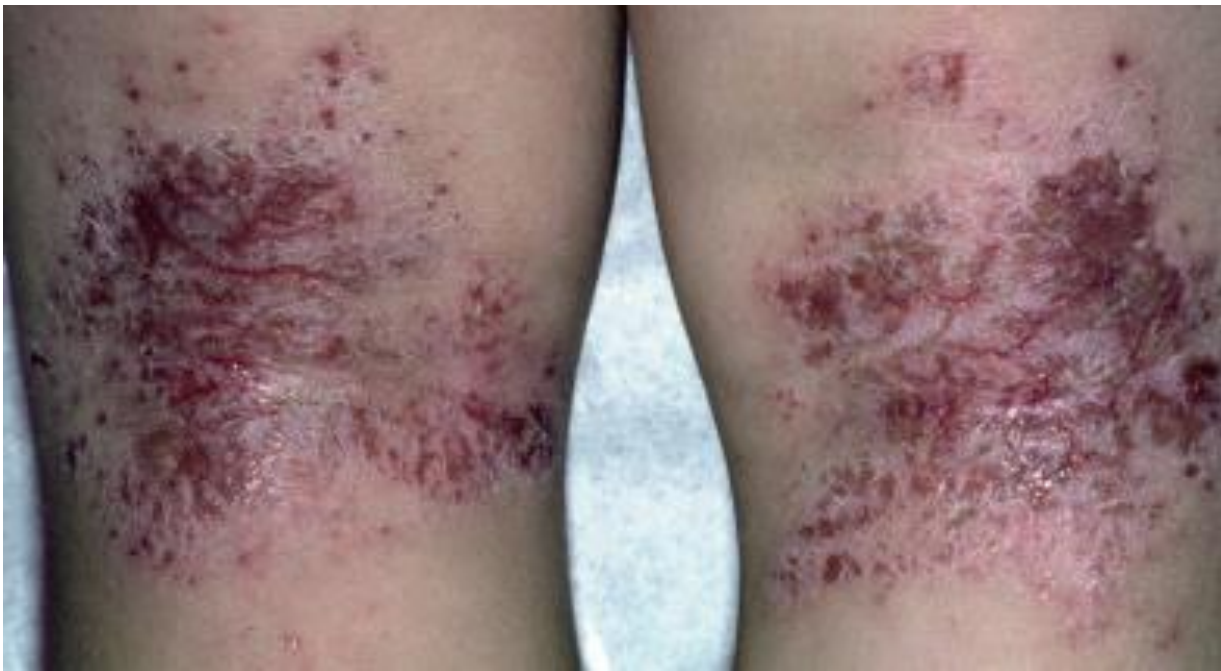










































# Case

- 21 year old college senior presents with diagnosis of new onset refractory atopic dermatitis for 9 months with severe pruritus
- Limited relief with numerous topical steroids, now on Ruxolitinib cream
- Short courses of oral corticosteroids helped but with rapid return of symptoms upon cessation
- Patient was started on Dupilumab 3 months prior to visit. He presents for second opinion due to lack of improvement

















- Clinical assessment
- KOH scraping
- Biopsy



Allergists and Dermatologists  
United!





# Dupilumab: Additional Considerations

- Dupilumab has expanding indications for TH2 mediated disease with a favorable safety profile
  - Site reactions
  - Conjunctivitis
  - Oral HSV
  - Eosinophilia
  - Head and neck dermatitis
- Two newer/emerging adverse events to be aware of
  - CTCL
  - Arthritis



# Progression of Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma (CTCL) with Dupilumab Therapy

- The most common form of CTCL is Mycosis Fungoides (MF)
  - Seen predominantly in adults
  - Presents as a recalcitrant papulosquamous eruption
  - Distribution varies but consistent sites of involvement are the axilla and hips/ buttocks
- In the pre-mycotic stage, evolving MF can resemble eczema/AD
  - What happens if we give a patient with evolving MF or active MF Dupilumab?

# Progression of Cutaneous T Cell Lymphoma (CTCL) with Dupilumab Therapy

- Treatment of presumed AD with dupilumab unmasked misdiagnosed MF
  - In one series, three of 530 patients (0.6%) with MF were misdiagnosed as AD
  - These patients experienced clinical worsening after initial response to dupilumab treatment
- Treatment of known MF with dupilumab was associated with more rapid disease progression disease
- Be cautious with recalcitrant new onset dermatitis in an adult with no prior hx of AD!









# Dupilumab Induced Arthritis

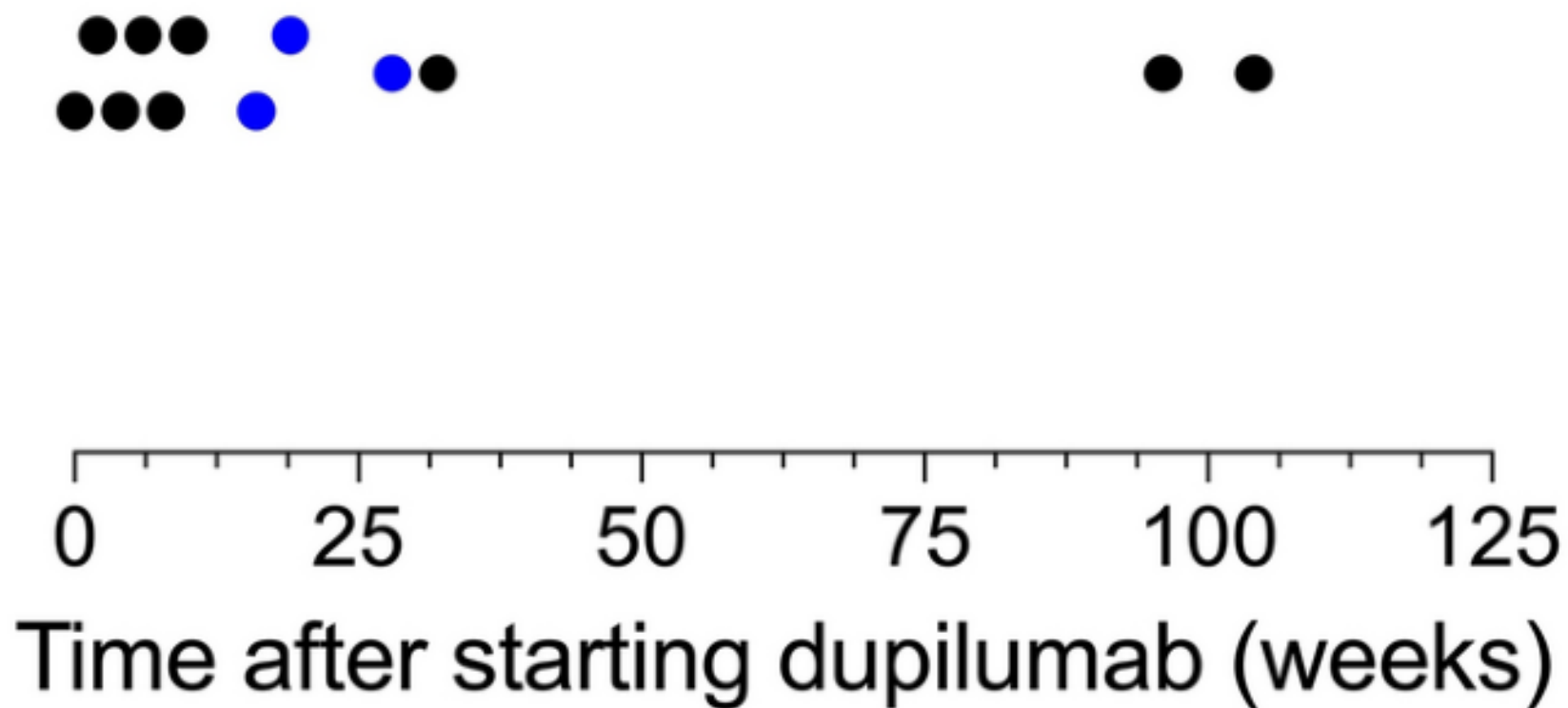
- Dupilumab was initially approved in 2017 for atopic dermatitis. Since then, it has seen expanded indications with increased use
  - Eosinophilic esophagitis
  - Asthma
  - Prurigo nodularis
  - CRS with nasal polyposis
  - AD in patients  $\geq 12$  with Moderate to severe uncontrolled hand and foot dermatitis
- Dupilumab induced arthritis was first described in 2019

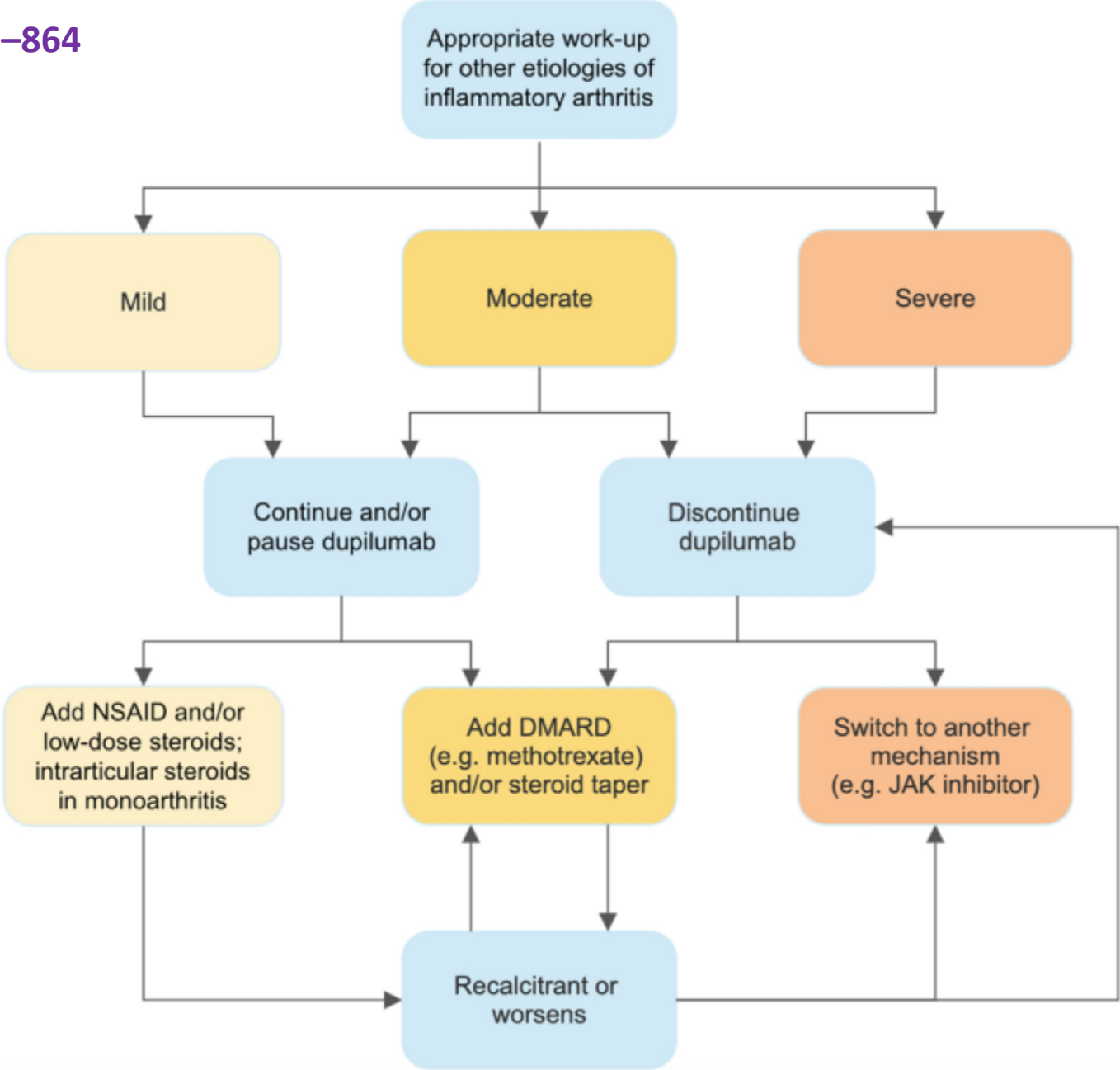


# Dupilumab Induced Arthritis

- Tends to be symmetrical, acral and generalized
  - Spares axial skeleton
  - Seen mostly in patients receiving Dupilumab for atopic dermatitis
  - Not associated with underlying RA/SLE
  - Rheumatoid factor, ESR, CRP and anti-citrullinated protein antibodies normal
  - Improves with cessation
- Most cases onset after 4 months of therapy
- Retrospective observational study of patients with moderate-to-severe AD on dupilumab found 6/169 (3.6%) developed arthritis/arthralgia

# Dupilumab-associated arthritis onset







# Cutaneous Toxicities of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

- ICI's have an expanding role in the treatment of numerous malignancies
  - anti-PD-1, anti-PD-L1, and anti-CTLA-4 antibodies are used to treat numerous cutaneous malignancies
- Cutaneous side effects are among the most frequently reported adverse reactions to these dermato-oncological therapies
  - ICI's 'cause dermatology' to happen

# Cutaneous Toxicities of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

- Incidence
  - Anti-CTLA-4 monotherapy incidence of cutaneous irAEs is 44-59%
  - Anti-PD-1 34-42% and anti-PD-L1 monotherapy up to 20%
  - Combination therapy with anti-PD-1 and anti-CTLA-4 agents has the highest incidence: 59–72%
- Recognizing the morphology of these reactions facilitates classification and treatment
  - The main reactions are eczematous, psoriasisform, morbilliform, and lichenoid
  - Rarer eruptions include pemphigoid and SJS/TEN

# Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI): Used to treat melanoma, cSCC, Merkel Cell Cancer, and numerous other metastatic tumors

- Anti-PD1
  - cemiplimab, nivolumab and pembrolizumab
- Anti-PD1L
  - atezolizumab, avelumab and durvalumab
- Anti-CTLA4
  - ipilimumab





# Cutaneous Toxicities of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

- Etiology of cutaneous irAE's
  - Activation of T cells against common antigens in target tumor cells and normal tissues
    - Vitiligo/Pemphigoid/SLE
  - Increased release of proinflammatory cytokines and antibodies activating T and B cells
    - Psoriasis/lichenoid/eczematous

## Grading cutaneous irAE

Grade	Findings
1	Asymptomatic with macules/papules covering majorly <10% of BSA
2	Macules/papules covering 10% to 30% of BSA can be symptomatic as well as asymptomatic.
3	About >30% of BSA is covered. The appearance of macules/papules with or without symptoms.
4	It is the most severe cutaneous response and can be life-threatening, such as SJS, TEN, and bullous dermatitis involving about >30% of BSA

irCAE Time to Onset (weeks)					
0-3	4-6	7-9	10-12	13-15	16+
Psoriasiform rash	Maculopapular rash	Lichenoid eruption		Bullous pemphigoid	
	Pruritus				
SJS					
TEN					
DRESS					
		Vitiligo-like skin hypopigmentation or depigmentation			
				Alopecia	



# Cutaneous Toxicities of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

- **Vitiligo**

- Mostly in patients receiving ICI for melanoma
- Onset variable (7-36 weeks into course of ICI)
- Represents a favorable prognostic indicator
- May not require treatment



# Cutaneous Toxicities of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

- **Psoriasis**

- Guttate, plaque and inverse patterns and psoriatic arthritis
- Can be de novo or reactivation of disease
- Treatment
  - Topical steroids, Tapinarof cream or Roflumilast cream
  - Acitretin
  - Phototherapy
  - Biologics
    - Avoid anti-IL17 agents due to risk of colitis with ICI
    - Favor anti-IL23 if biologic required
  - Cessation rarely necessary
- May portend an increased risk of endocrine immune-related adverse events



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**FIGURE 1.** (A) Psoriatic eruption post Nivolumab treatment. (B) Resolution of psoriatic rash post treatment with acitretin.



# Cutaneous Toxicities of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

- **Lichenoid Eruption**

- Amongst most common reactions
- Onset 6-12 weeks
- Can be bullous, may involve mucosae
- Therapy
  - Topical steroids
  - UVB Phototherapy
  - For Grade 3: Cessation, oral corticosteroid, methotrexate

**Skin Manifestation Induced by Immune Checkpoint  
Inhibitors. *Clin Cosmet Investig Dermatol.* 2022;15:829-841**





# Cutaneous Toxicities of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

- Eczematous
  - Exacerbation or denovo eruptions
- Therapy
  - Grade 1 and 2: topical corticosteroids, ruxolitinib cream, UVB
  - Grade 3: UVB, dupilumab, oral corticosteroids, cessation of ICI

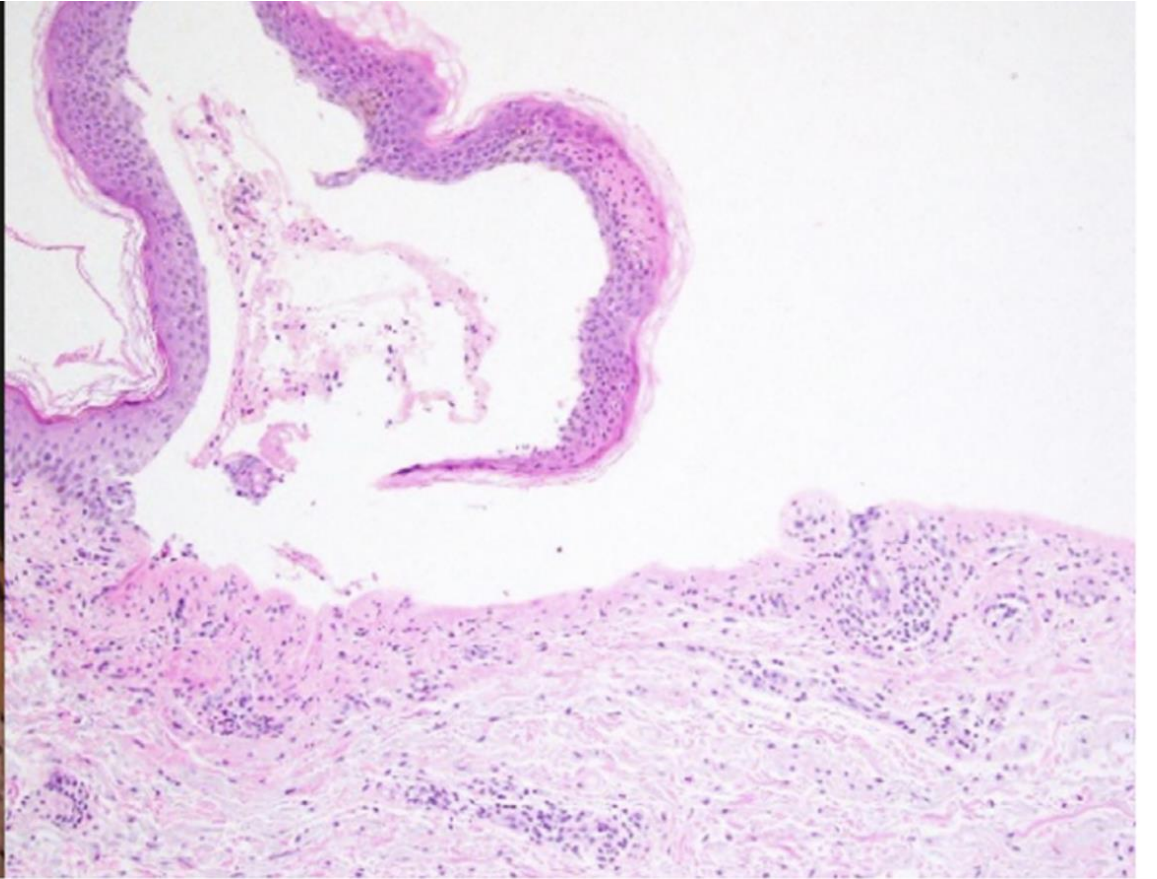
# Cutaneous Toxicities of Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors (ICI)

- Morbilliform Eruptions (maculopapular)
  - Most common with ipilimumab
  - Onset 3-6 weeks into treatment
  - Distributed on torso and extensor surfaces of extremities
  - Pruritic
  - Therapy: Topical corticosteroids









**J Am Acad Dermatol. 2020 Nov; 83(5): 1255–1268**

# Conclusions

- Sulfites are the contact allergen of the year for 2024
- New and expanding options for the topical therapy of atopic dermatitis offer alternatives to corticosteroids
- Dupilumab is efficacious and safe but can unmask CTCL and cause arthritis
- Immune checkpoint inhibitors have expanding indications. Recognition and management of cutaneous irAE improves patient tolerance and may reduce treatment interruptions

