

# Case 1

- Dad brings in his 18 month old boy John who has excoriated skin at the backs of the knees and elbows. On questioning Dad states that John has had dry skin over the last year. Mum has a history of asthma
- Diagnosis?

# Atopic eczema

- 'Atopic' – genetic predisposition for an exaggerated IgE immune response
- Diagnosis - Itchy skin plus 3 of
  - Skin crease involvement (knees, wrists, elbows/ankles)
  - Visible flexural eczema
  - Personal/family hx of asthma/hay fever
  - Dry skin in the last year
  - Onset under the age of 2 years

‘Eczematous’ - dry, scaly and red



# Flexural pattern of eczema

- Excoriation
  - Superficial erosion – loss of epidermis only (no scarring)



# Examination

- Distribution: flexural
- Acute:
  - Erythema (not well demarcated – tinea/psoriasis), oedema, crusting (can be yellow)
  - Excoriation, papules, vesicles, weeping/dry
- Chronic:
  - Lichenification (prominence of skin folds), dryness, scaling (rough on palpation), cracking, fissuring (ear lobe), hypo/hyperpigmentation

