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Core outcomes for eczema: Harmonizing Outcomes for Eczema Initiative

Prof Kim Thomas on behalf of
HOME initiative



Harmonizing Outcome Measures for Eczema



- What is a Core Outcome Set and why is it important?
- What is the HOME Core Outcome Set?
 - Harmonizing Outcome Measures for Eczema (www.homeforeczema.org)
- What does this mean for the eczema community?
 - Implementation of the core set is key
 - Everyone's role to encourage uptake





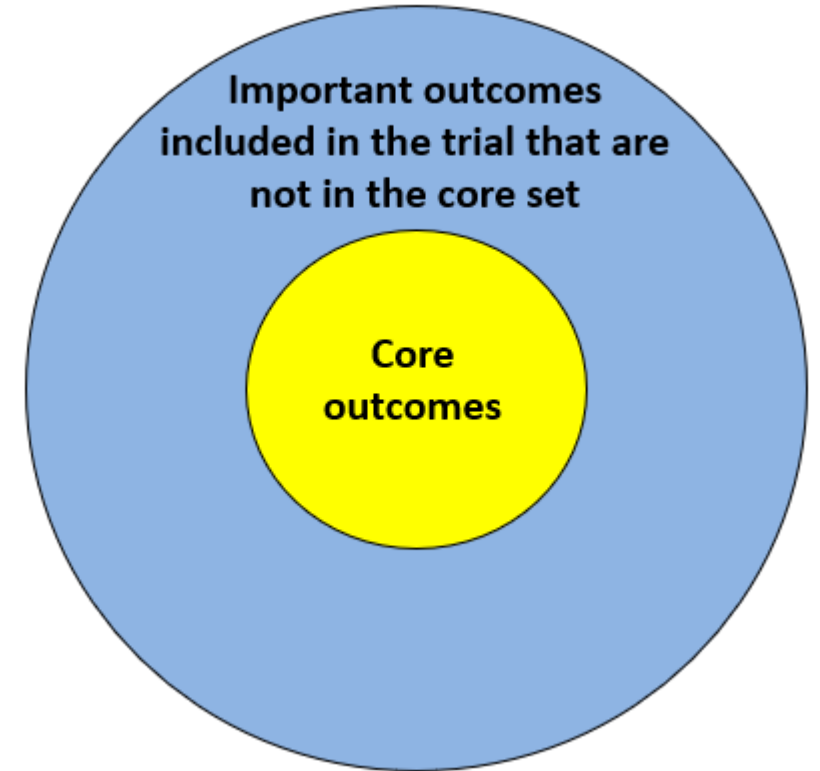
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**What is a core
outcome set and
why is it
important?**



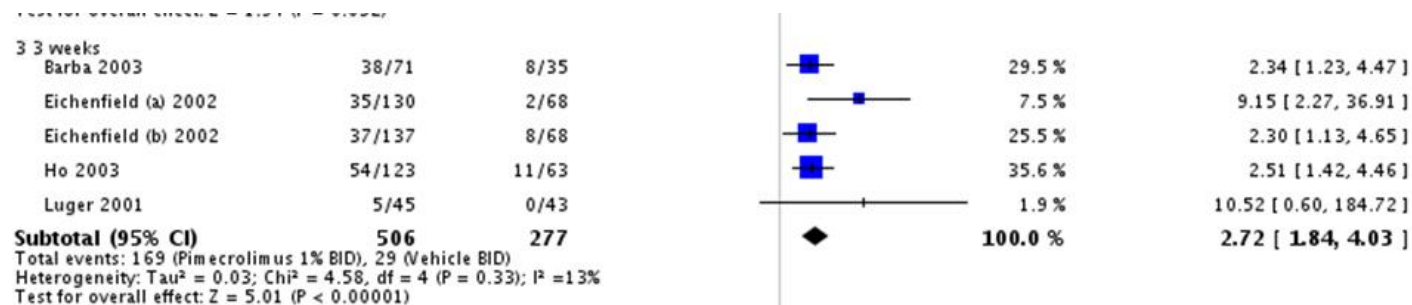
- The minimum set of outcomes that should be collected and reported in all trials for a given condition





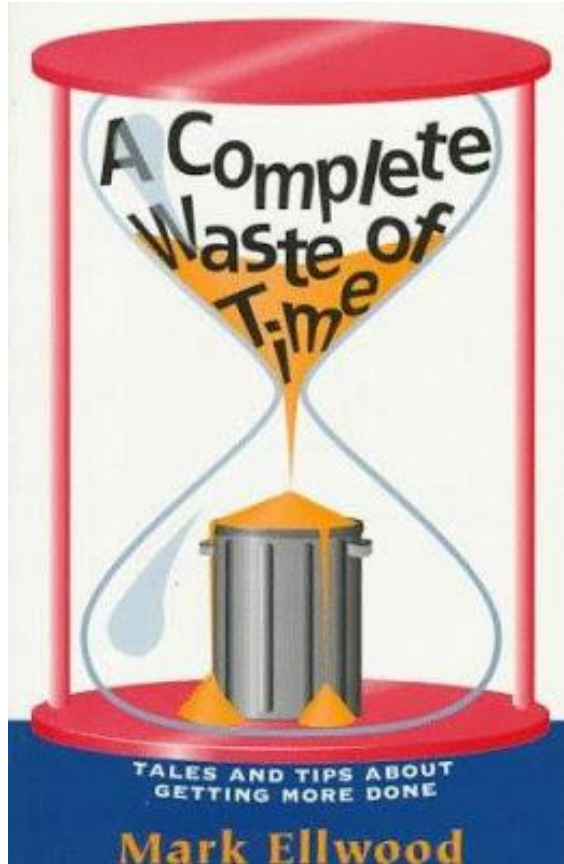
Main benefit:

- Reduces research waste
- Enables synthesis of trial results in meta-analyses
- Better able to inform clinical practice and **improve patients' lives**



Other benefits:

- Reduces risk of **inappropriate** and **unimportant** outcomes being used
- Reduces “cherry picking” of the most significant results
- Speeds up study design – outcomes established



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All about improving patients' lives through better research that informs clinical decision-making

The alternative:

“Meta-analysis was not possible due to heterogeneity in the choice and timing of outcome assessments.”





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What is the HOME Core Outcome Set?



- Global initiative to agree a set of core outcomes for eczema
- Started by Jochen Schmitt and Hywel Williams (2008)
- Now has over 400 members worldwide



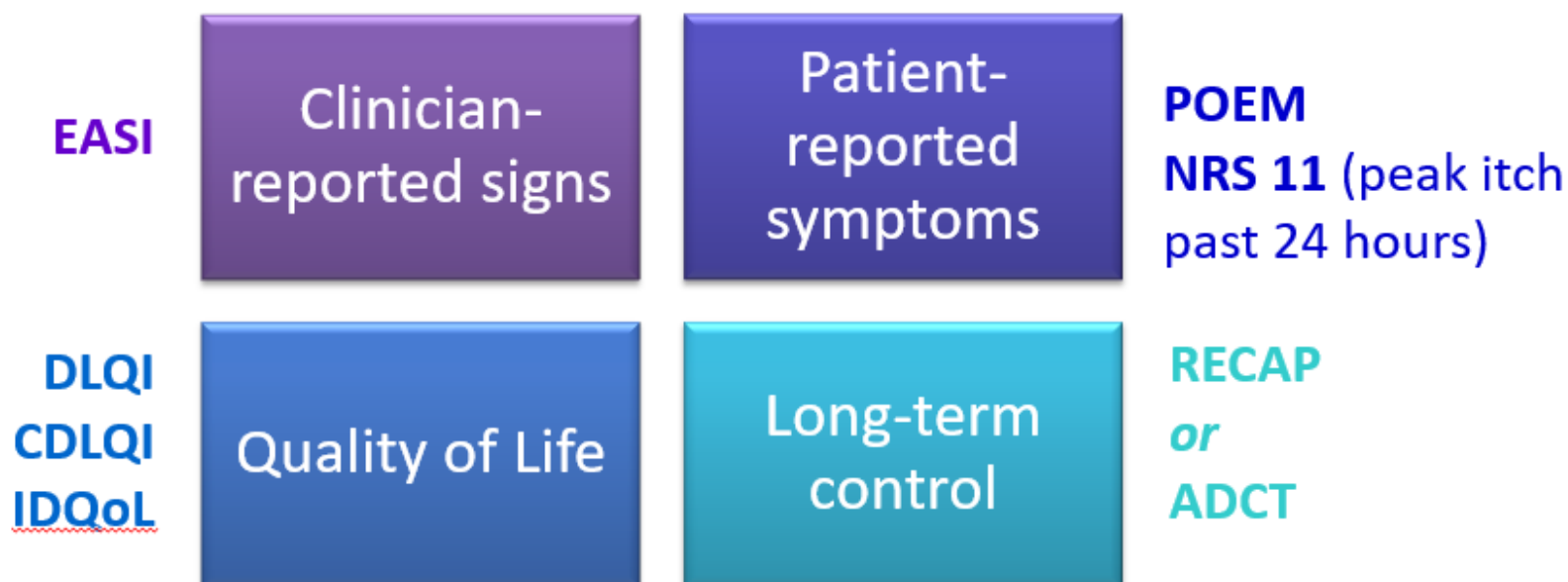
home
Harmonizing Outcome Measures for Eczema

www.homeforeczema.org



Five international consensus meetings (2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019)

Agreed core outcome instrument for all clinical trials in eczema



Feasible

www.homeforeczema.org

Relevant



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**What does this
mean for the
eczema
community?**



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Clinical Trials

What to do

- Use the core set when designing eczema trials
- Report the data transparently at all timepoints (mean, SD) – could be supplementary info if necessary
- Doesn't need to be the primary outcome

Which trials?

- Trials reporting clinical outcomes (not mechanistic studies /early phase studies with biomarkers)
- Not designed for eczema prevention trials, or trials of localised eczema e.g. hand eczema
- Not all domains may be possible for all trials e.g. online trials – signs (EASI) not possible

Standardized reporting of the Eczema Area and Severity Index (EASI) and the Patient-Oriented Eczema Measure (POEM) Grinich EE et al (2018) *Br J Dermatol* 2018 Aug; 179(2):540-541. doi: 10.1111/bjd.16732



Systematic reviews & guideline developers

What to do

- Use the core domains when designing systematic reviews (clinical signs, symptoms, QoL, control)
- Prioritise the core instruments for meta-analysis (when possible)

Regulators, funders, ethics committees, trial registries, journal editors, peer reviewers

What to do

- Be aware of core outcome sets in dermatology
- Mandate (or encourage) use and reporting of core outcome set
- Peer reviewers –ask authors to justify their choice of outcomes



Clinicians and patients



Click on the links above to download the app, or search *My Eczema Tracker* in your app store.

What to do

- Consider using core outcome instruments in clinical practice
- Enables you to interpret trial results more easily and apply them to your own patients
- Apps available for capturing patient-reported outcomes
e.g. My Eczema Tracker (includes POEM and RECAP) <https://www.nhsx.nhs.uk/key-tools-and-info/digital-playbooks/dermatology-digital-playbook>

HOME Clinical Practice Set

- Provides a “pick and choose” list of validated outcomes suitable for use in clinical practice



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Implementation challenges



- 93/95 trials published in top medical journals did NOT report using COS
 - relevant COS were available for 33%
- All trials measured at least one core outcome
- Most common perceived barriers/facilitator to uptake
 - Trialists' own preferences for instruments
 - Awareness and knowledge about COS



Journal of Clinical Epidemiology 142 (2022) 19–28

**Journal of
Clinical
Epidemiology**

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Use of core outcome sets was low in clinical trials published in major medical journals

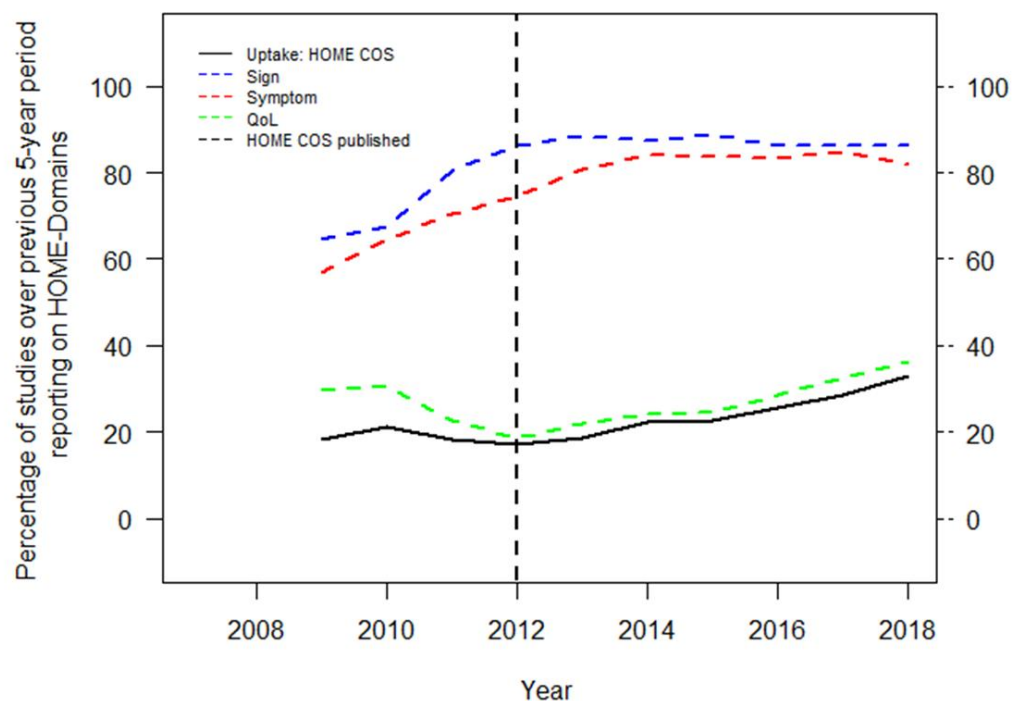
Karen Matvienko-Sikar^{a,*}, Kerry Avery^b, Jane M Blazeby^b, Declan Devane^{c,d},
Susanna Dodd^e, Aoife M Egan^f, Sarah L Gorst^e, Karen Hughes^e, Pamela Jacobsen^g,
Jamie J Kirkham^h, Jan Kottnerⁱ, Katie Mellor^j, Christopher P Millward^{k,l}, Smitaa Patel^m,
Fiona Quirke^{d,n}, Ian J Saldanha^o, Valerie Smith^p, Caroline B Terwee^q, Amber E Young^r,
Paula R Williamson^e

Matvienko-Sikar K 2022, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jclinepi.2021.10.012>



Uptake of COS needs to improve for the benefits to be realised

Domains



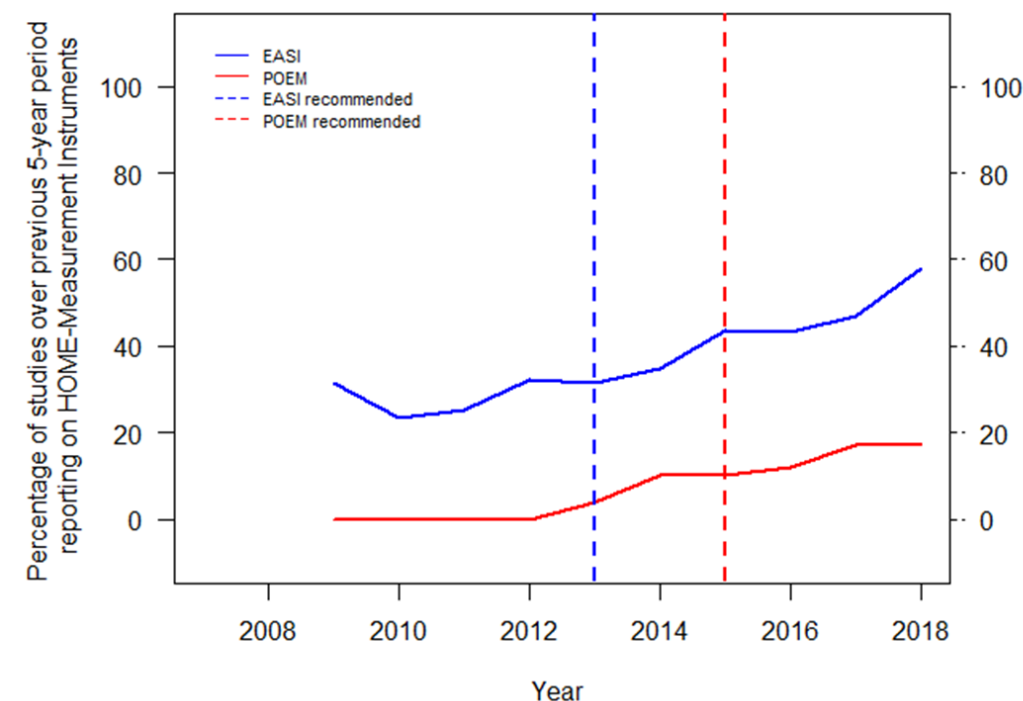
Research Letter | [Full Access](#)

Assessing uptake of the Harmonising Outcome Measures for Eczema (HOME) Core Outcome Set and recommended instruments

R. Vincent [✉](#) J.R. Chalmers, C. McWilliams, K.S. Thomas, S. Dodd, N. Rogers, M.J. Ridd, J. Schmitt, J.J. Kirkham

First published: 13 March 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/bjd.19030> | Citations: 5

Outcome Instruments



- The HOME Core Outcome Set is for the whole eczema community
- Benefits will only be realised if we work together to adopt the core set



Further information: www.homeforeczema.org




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Harmonising Outcome Measures for Eczema (HOME)

"Developing a consensus based set of core outcome measures for eczema for inclusion in all clinical trials."


The HOME initiative is an international group working together to agree a core outcome set (COS) for atopic eczema clinical trials.

Participation in HOME is open to anyone with an interest in outcomes for atopic eczema. To get involved please [contact us](#).


Core outcome instruments:

Clinician-reported signs - [EASI](#)

Patient-reported symptoms - [POEM](#)




About HOME




- Why do we need core outcome measures for eczema trials?
- Progress so far

Core Outcomes



- The HOME IV meeting saw consensus reached on [POEM](#) for patient-reported symptoms

Meetings



- The HOME IV meeting was held in Malmö, Sweden on 23rd & 24th April 2015. The results of this meeting are

← **HOME for eczema**
306 Tweets



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HOME is an international group working together to agree core outcome sets for eczema clinical trials and clinical record-keeping [homeforeczema.org](#)

 Joined December 2016

www.homeforeczema.org

[@HOMEforeczema](#)

Email: home@nottingham.ac.uk



How much did you know about the core outcome set for eczema prior to this talk?

1. Never heard of the HOME core outcome set before
2. Heard of the HOME core outcome set, but didn't know much about it
3. Already aware of the HOME core outcome set but not used or promoted it
4. Already using or promoting use of the HOME core outcome set

