

Evaluation of the Implementation of **Project ECHO in **AD** in **Argentina**.
An innovative strategy to reach underserved areas with up to date
knowledge**

Paula C Luna, Cristina Echeverria, Emilia Debernardi,
Valeria Angles, Margarita Larralde, Luis Mazzuocolo.

On behalf of Project ECHO AD

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Evaluation of the Implementation of **Project ECHO** in **AD** in **Argentina**. An innovative strategy to reach underserved areas with uptodate knowledge

BACKGROUND

Medical knowledge is in constant evolution, unfortunately these advances not always translate in a rapid benefit for patients. In countries such as Argentina, with a vast territory and a combination of urban, suburban and rural areas these disparities are even deeper.

The project ECHO® is a model of distance medical education developed in US to support health professionals in the management of patients with complex diseases. This platform has demonstrated to improve doctors diagnostic and therapeutic skills and also avoid professional isolation. With the concept of moving the knowledge instead of the patients.

Since 2019, we are applying it to atopic dermatitis (AD) in Argentina.

The program consists of the periodic presentation of clinical cases by videoconference, virtual classes and a permanently available open chat between professionals in charge of patients with AD and a group of experts in this disease.

Evaluation of the Implementation of **Project ECHO** in AD in **Argentina**.

An innovative strategy to reach underserved areas with uptodate knowledge

METHODS

-Argentinean dermatologists, dermatologist in training (residents and fellows) and other related specialists (pediatricians and allergists) were invited to participate in the **Project ECHO AD**

Information about the project was provided: its objectives and reach, the use of the teleconference platform and the modality of presentation of clinical cases.

-90 minutes, virtual meetings were scheduled on a monthly basis

Every meeting 2-3 **clinical cases** were shared, discussion was then open to all participants, exchanging their clinical views and finally reaching to an agreement about how to proceed. Additionally there was a scheduled **short update lecture** regarding topics related to AD. (Pathophysiology, severity scores, emerging treatments, comorbidities, etc)

-A WhatsApp® **Chat group** was created in order to send queries that required quick resolution and could not wait until the next meeting or to share information related to the disease with an educational purpose (papers, etc)

-**After 12 meetings**, the professionals answered an anonymous **survey** in order to evaluate the educational results of the project on their medical skills and the impact of the program on their daily practice

Evaluation of the Implementation of **Project ECHO** in AD in **Argentina**.

An innovative strategy to reach underserved areas with up to date knowledge

RESULTS

November 2019

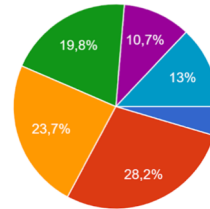
November 2020

12 meetings

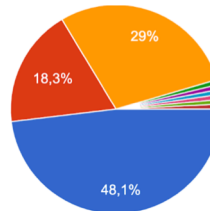
28 patients pre-scheduled sessions

35 patients spontaneous

217 Physicians



- Resident, in training
- 0-5 years as dermatologist
- 6-10 years as dermatologist
- 11-15 years as dermatologist
- 16-20 years as dermatologist
- More than 20 years as dermatologist



- Dermatology of adults
- Pediatric dermatologist
- Adults and pediatric dermatologist
- Allergist
- Pediatric
- General practitioner
- Dermatology and allergist



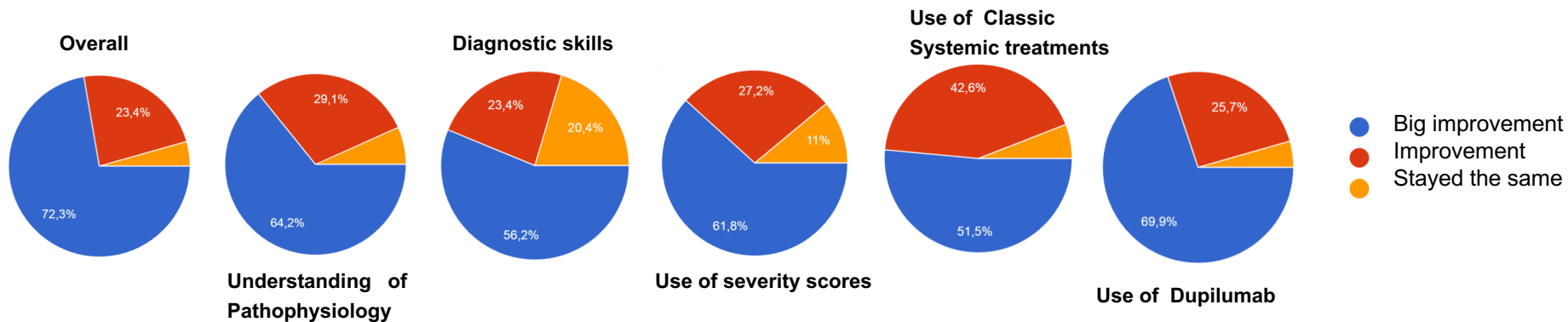
Representatives from 20 out of 24 provinces

Evaluation of the Implementation of Project ECHO in AD in Argentina.

An innovative strategy to reach underserved areas with uptodate knowledge

RESULTS

Impact on medical skills regarding AD management



CONCLUSIONS

After the first 12 months Participants of Project ECHO AD Argentina have shown an improvement in most of the areas evaluated. Project ECHO AD is an transversal educational tool that can help enhance medical skills of doctors and institutions, in which a climate of partnership comes first and look forward to learning from experiences, successes and mistakes of our own and other colleagues, to finally contribute to apply the best clinical practices to our patients.

Acknowledgements: Sanofi & Abbvie for supporting the project and all the participants who make it worth-it