



CANADIAN DERMATOLOGY ASSOCIATION FACT SHEET
TOPICAL CALCINEURIN INHIBITORS - ELIDEL® CREAM AND PROTOPIC® OINTMENT FOR THE
TREATMENT OF ATOPIC DERMATITIS IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS

Many Canadian children have **atopic dermatitis**, which can last into adulthood. This eczema can have a lasting effect on people's lives, both physically and psychologically. An important treatment for atopic dermatitis can be what is known as topical calcineurin inhibitors, prescribed in Canada as either Elidel cream or Protopic ointment. These creams can be used alone or in conjunction with other medication.

In 2005, a warning was added to the packaging for these products because of theoretical concerns about an increased cancer risk when used by children or adolescents.

By 2005, studies had been done on 38,000 people, including 14,000 children under the age of 17. Two cases of **non-lymphoma** cancer were discovered. Scientists usually expect to find three lymphomas among such a large group. Reporting of any adverse effects associated with the use of topical calcineurin inhibitors also failed to show any unusual increases in the development of cancer or lymphoma associated with use of these products.

In fact, there were fewer cases of cancer and lymphoma in both children and adults than scientists were expecting to find, and external experts felt these cases were unlikely to be linked to the use of Elidel cream or Protopic ointment.

In North America, nearly seven million patients are safely using Elidel or Protopic products. In the 12 years since 2005, there has been no evidence to show any association between the use of Elidel cream or Protopic ointment and the development of any cancers or lymphomas.

Please feel free to discuss the contents of this fact sheet with your certified dermatologist.

The Canadian Dermatology Association's mission is to promote the highest quality standards of dermatologic care in Canada. Part of this mission is to help ensure that patients are prescribed safe and effective medications.

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