



SILK garments (Dermasilk[®], Dreamskin[®], Skinnies Silk[®])

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The Pan Mersey Area Prescribing Committee does not recommend the prescribing of SILK garments (Dermasilk[®], Dreamskin[®], Skinnies Silk[®]) for eczema or atopic dermatitis.

Silk garments are marketed as an adjunctive treatment (to emollients and topical corticosteroids) for various forms of dermatitis, eczema and allergic skin conditions.

Three brands of knitted silk garments are currently listed in the Drug Tariff, these are Dermasilk[®], Dreamskin[®] and Skinnies silk[®].¹

All three brands come in a wide range of garments including eye masks, socks, gloves, vests, pyjamas and body suits. Sizes of garments range from those suitable for babies and children to full size adult clothing.

These garments contain medical grade silk that has been treated to remove the natural gum (sericin) which can be allergenic.²

Key Messages:

- The evidence relating to the use of silk garments for eczema and atopic dermatitis is weak and suggests that silk garments are unlikely to provide additional clinical or economic benefits over standard care.^{2,3}
- NICE guidance CG57 (December 2007) on the treatment of atopic eczema in children made no recommendations about the use of silk garments in the management of eczema.⁴

Note: Patients who are not eligible for treatment under this statement may be considered on an individual basis where their GP or consultant believes exceptional circumstances exist that warrant deviation from the rule of this policy. In this situation, follow locally defined processes.

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<p>EFFECTIVENESS</p> <p>The CLOTHES Trial, published in April 2017, is the first large, independent RCT to have evaluated silk garments for the management of eczema. The trial is an observer-blind RCT of 300 children with moderate to severe eczema where participants were randomised to receive standard eczema care plus silk clothing or standard care alone.</p> <p>After six months, there was no evidence of a difference between the groups in eczema severity (Eczema Area and Severity Index score) assessed by research nurses.</p> <p>The results of this trial suggest that silk garments are unlikely to provide additional clinical or economic benefits over standard care for children with moderate to severe eczema.³</p>	<p>SAFETY</p>
<p>COST</p> <p>Range of costs of silk garments: £10.35 (eye mask) - £79.52 (pyjamas)¹</p> <p>In the 12 months, from June 16 to May 17, across Pan Mersey the prescribing costs for silk garments was £130,000⁵</p>	<p>PATIENT FACTORS</p>

PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

Silk garments are not recommended for prescribing due to poor evidence of their benefits over standard care.

REFERENCES

1. On line Drug Tariff available at accessed 21/12/2017
2. UKMI Trent Medicines Information Service. Prescribable Medical Devices. Silk garments for eczema/atopic dermatitis. June 2014. Available at <http://www.midlandsmedicines.nhs.uk/filestore/SilkGarments.pdf>
3. Thomas KS, Bradshaw LE, Sach TH, Cowdell F, Batchelor JM, Lawton S, et al. Randomised controlled trial of silk therapeutic garments for the management of atopic eczema in children: the CLOTHES trial. Health Technol Assess 2017;21(16) <http://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002280>
4. NICE guidance CG57 December 2007. Atopic eczema in under 12s: diagnosis and management Available at <https://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/CG57>
5. EPACT data accessed July 2017.