Author's response to reviews

Title: Prevalence of Childhood Eczema and Food Sensitization in the First Nations Community of Natuashish, Labrador, Canada

Authors:

Robert G. P. Forsey (robertforsey@me.com)

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Revised cover letter:

My practice is in Happy Valley-Goose Bay, Canada. Our group (affiliated with Labrador-Grenfell Health) provides health care to a number of small remote aboriginal communities on the coast of Labrador, including the Mushua Innu community of Natuashish.

The study was done in response to concerns raised by the health commission and residents of Natuashish. Community members and the physicians/nurses serving them have noted a very high prevalence of eczema in this particular village.

The community is relatively small (population 725) and geographically isolated and thus amenable to a small research project in the form of a prevalence survey. Two databases were used to determine eligible participants- the local clinic birth record log, and the public health pediatric registry. Permission to access these confidential records was granted by The Labrador Grenfell Health board.

The scope of the research is broad- encompassing family medicine, aboriginal medicine, dermatology and immunology.

Included in the article is an overview of the various factors that affect the incidence of eczema, possible causes and triggers of eczema, and the controversy about the role of food sensitization.

I am the sole author of this manuscript.