

The Hand Eczema Core Outcome Set (HECOS) Initiative

Summary of methods and timelines

The methods for developing a COS for therapeutic interventions and for preventive interventions, respectively, are very similar. However, most steps will need to be performed separately to avoid confusion and to involve appropriate stakeholders. We begin with developing outcome domains for therapeutic interventions.

Phase 1: Development of a set of core outcome domains

Outcome domains specify *what* is being measured. Outcome domains exist on different hierarchical levels, e.g. “clinical signs of hand eczema”, “health-related quality of life”, “severity of hand eczema”, or “pruritus”.

Phase 1.1: Identification of candidate outcome domains

- a) Systematic review of previous trials (completed, possible update completed by 09/2020)
- b) Interviews with hand eczema patients (for treatment trials: completed by 09/2020)
- c) Interviews with hand eczema experts (for treatment trials: completed by 09/2020)

Phase 1.2: Consensus on core outcome domains

- a) Online Delphi survey (for treatment trials: 10/2020 – 06/2021)
- b) Face-to-face consensus meeting with subsequent online approval by the online panel (10/2021 – 02/2022 with preceding preparation)

The protocol for the development of core outcome domains for therapeutic interventions has been approved by CS-COUSIN and has been submitted for publication (Oct 2019).

Phase 2: Development of a set of core outcome measurement instruments (timeline to be announced)

Phase 2.1: Identification of candidate outcome measurement instruments

- a) Systematic review and appraisal of existing outcome measurement instruments
- b) Validation studies if needed

Phase 2.2: Consensus on outcome measurement instruments

- a) Online Delphi survey
- b) Face-to-face consensus meeting with subsequent online approval by the online panel
- c) Publication and dissemination of the completed consensus-base core outcome set

Your contribution to enhance hand eczema research by joining HECOS is highly appreciated.

<http://cs-cousin.org/hecos>

Henriette.Roensch@tu-dresden.de (coordinator)

christian.apfelbacher@med.ovgu.de (lead)

Andrea.Bauer@uniklinikum-dresden.de (lead)