The gender distribution of patients presenting with rash were similar to all BEACH encounters. However, younger patients were more likely to present with rash, with one-quarter (24.5%) of patients being under the age of 15 years compared with 11.8% of all encounters.

There were 5533 diagnoses/problems managed at rash encounters. Contact/allergic dermatitis was the most common, recorded at a rate of 28.5 per 100 of these encounters. Rash remained undiagnosed at 9.5 per 100 rash encounters, and dermatophytosis and urticaria were common diagnoses (8.8 and 6.1 per 100 rash encounters respectively). Adverse effect of a medical agent was the resulting diagnosis at 1.8 per 100 rash encounters (Table 1).

A medication was prescribed, advised for over-the-counter (OTC) purchase or supplied by the general practitioner at a rate of 82.1 per 100 problems. The OTC medications made up 23.4% of these, GP supplied medications contributed 5.2%, and prescribed medications made up 71.4%. Topical corticosteroids made up over half of all prescribed medications, and of the total medications prescribed/advised for OTC purchase/supplied by the GP, the most common were topical betamethasone (7.4%), mometasone (7.3%) and topical hydrocortisone (6.5%).

A clinical treatment, including advice/education and counselling, was provided at a rate of 20.6 per 100 problems, and a procedural treatment, mainly excision/removal tissue/biopsy/destruction/debridement/cauterisation was provided at a rate of 6.6 per 100 problems.

Referrals to dermatologists were given at a rate of 3.9 per 100 problems, and pathology tests were ordered at a rate of 18.8 per 100 problems.

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