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Our paper [1] is a short report on our experience in using low doses of tretinoin (all-*trans*-retinoic acid) for the treatment of both cutaneous and oral forms of lichen planus. As mentioned by Prof. Plewig,

it was first described by Beer [2] in 1962 that systemic tretinoin was beneficial in three skin diseases including Darier's disease, acne and 'érythrodermie ichthyosiforme congénitale'. Since no patients with lichen planus were investigated by Beer, we did not consider it worthwhile to include this reference in our publication.

In a series of publications issued between 1971 and 1975, Günther [3] described the beneficial effect of tretinoin in various forms of lichen planus. To remain concise, we have only cited his last paper, summarizing his previous experience [3].

In 1978, Scheiber and Plewig [4] published their investigations on the efficacy of oral isotretinoin and etretinate in mucosal lichen planus. We would have discussed their interesting results in our paper if this had been a comprehensive review on the general use of retinoids in lichen planus. However, this was not the purpose of our short communication.

We agree with Prof. Plewig that only large-scale clinical trials including comparison with other retinoids will allow to define the exact place of oral tretinoin in the treatment of lichen planus.

References

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Scheiber W, Plewig G: Behandlung des Lichen ruber mucosae mit Vit-amin-A-Säure-Derivaten. *Dermatologica* 1978;157:171-180.

Announcement

International Society for Dermatologic Surgery: 18th International Congress

The International Society for Dermatologic Surgery's 18th International Congress will be held on September 25-28, 1997, at the beautiful old world Grand Hotel Krasnapolsky in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Topics include: Facial Rejuvenation, Lasers in Dermatology, Phlebology Today, Problem Solving in Dermatologic Surgery, Lipo-suction, Muller Phlebectomy, Hair Restoration, Hair Transplantation, Sclerotherapy, Mohs Micrographic Surgery, Free Communications,

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The 19th Congress of the ISDS will take place from October 30 to

Cutaneous Oncology, General Dermatologic Surgery and Cosmetic November 2, 1998, in Sao
Paulo, Brazil. Further information will be

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available at a later date.

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