Concomitance of Psoriasis and Atopic Dermatitis – A Relative Phenomenon

S.		Dhar
A.J.		Kanwar
S.		Ghosh

Department of Dermatology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India

Sandipan Dhar, Department of Dermatology, Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh (India)

We read with great interest the article by Beer et al. [1] published in your journal. The authors reported 45 patients having concomitant atopic dermatitis and psoriasis of which 12 (26.7%) were in the pediatric age group (up to 12 years of age). In our analysis of 100 patients with atopic dermatitis in the pediatric age group [2, 3], we did not find coexistent psoriasis in any of them during detailed history taking and clinical examination. Similarly in a report of 112 cases of childhood psoriasis from the same population group, not even a single patient had coexistent atopic dermatitis.

Atopic dermatitis is very common in the pediatric age group in contrast to psoriasis which is uncommon. So when in the same population both diseases are analyzed separately without the significant coexistence of the two, it indicates that atopic dermatitis and psoriasis are mutually exclusive in that population as in our case. Moreover, as both diseases show winter aggravation, there would be a better chance of showing coexistence in case it would have been really so. Hence we agree with the earlier observation of Christophers and Henselero [5] and feel that the frequency of coexistence of these two diseases is entirely a relative phenomenon depending on genetic and environmental factors as well as the overall incidence of the diseases in the population studied.

References

- Beer WE, Smith AE, Kassab JY. et al: Concomitance of psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. *Dermatology* 1992; 184:265-270. Kanwar AJ, Dhar S. Kaur S: Evaluation of minor clinical features of atopic dermatitis. *Pediatr Dermatol* 1991;8:114-116. Dhar S, Kanwar AJ, Kaur S, et al: Role of bacterial flora in the pathogenesis and management of atopic dermatitis. *Indian J Med Res* 1992;95:235-242.
- Nanda A. Kaur S. Kaur I, et al: Childhood psoriasis – An epidemiologic survey of 112 patients. *Pediatr Dermatol* 1990;7:19-21. Christophers E, Henselero T: Contrasting disease pattern in psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. *Arch Dermatol Res* 1987;279:48-51.