Concomitance of Psoriasis and Atopic Dermatitis – A Relative Phenomenon

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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 Henseler [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