Survival in Pemphigus

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The course of pemphigus is variable and unfortunately unpredictable for a given patient [1]. Lever and Lever [2] reported the natural history of pemphigus vulgaris in 63 patients observed between 1961 and 1975. Though 40% of these patients ultimately achieved remission, the longest disease-free interval in an individual patient was not mentioned. Childhood or juvenile pemphigus is believed to have a worse prognosis [3]. We recently observed a 35-year-old female patient who had clinically and histopathologically proved pemphigus vulgaris at the age of 3 years. She had relapses and remissions for 2 years and was managed with oral corticosteroids. The last relapse was nearly 30 years ago; she has been absolutely free of any lesions. The patient is married and has 2 children. Clinical examination did not reveal any lesion, and direct immunofluorescence of skin was negative. To the best of our knowledge, this is perhaps the longest disease-free interval observed in a patient with juvenile pemphigus vulgaris.

References

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