Psoriasis and Atopy

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The association of psoriasis with atopy has been recently discussed in this journal [1-3]. The coincidence of two distinct skin disorders in the same patient is bewildering both for the patient and the dermatologist. On the basis of prevalence alone, the simultaneous occurrence of psoriasis and atopic dermatitis (AD) should be a quite common finding [1, 4], a statistical probability denied by others [5].

A prospective investigation into this very question is presently carried out at our clinic; accurate diagnoses were ascertained on the basis of: (1) available histology, (2) positive family history and (3) clinical picture.

Our data seem to show that in nearly all clinically unclear lesions, histology does not bring the answer either. Microscopical features are those of subacute dermatitis, sometimes slightly psoriasiform. So, since then, in all cases of undoubtful family history, we consider these patients as suffering from concomitant AD and psoriasis. As we know, fortunately certain medications like ciclosporin [6, 7], UV light, topical corticosteroids, fumaric acid [8] do bring simultaneous relief in both diseases.

References


Announcement

Dermatopathology Foundation 17th Annual Course in Gross and Microscopic Pathology of the Skin
June 11-15, 1990 (Monday through Friday)
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