Psoriasis and Atopy

U.H.

Ulrich H.

Schmid

Leysin

Ulrich H. Schmid, MD, Clinique de la Polyarthrite et du Psoriasis, CH-1854 Leysin (Switzerland)

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 undoubted 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

Welp K, Gicler U: In Reply. Dermatologica 1989;179:54.

Beer WE, et al: Psoriasis and Atopy. Dermatologica 1988;176:309.

Lindegard B: Diseases associated with psoriasis. Dermatologica 1986;172:298.

Welp K, et al: Koinzidenz von Psoriasis vulgaris und atopischer Dermatitis. Hautarzt 1989;40:496.

Christophers E, Henseler T: Contrasting disease patterns in psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. Arch Dermatol Res 1987;279:48.

Biren CA, Barr B: Dermatologic applications of cyclosporine. Arch Dermatol 1986;122:1028.

Van Joost T, Stolz E: Efficacy of low-dose cyclosporine in severe atopic skin disease. Arch Dermatol 1987;167:123.

Schäfer G: Fumarsäuretherapie der Psoriasis. Ärztl Praxis 1978; 61:1757.

Announcement

Dermatopathology Foundation 17th Annual Course in Gross and Microscopic Pathology of the Skin

June 11-15, 1990 (Monday through Friday)

The Hotel del Coronado, Coronado (across bay from San Diego), Calif.

39 hours credit – AMA category I

Contact: Dermatopathology Foundation

PO Box 377

Canton, MA 02021 (USA)

Tel.: toll-free (USA and Canada) 1-800-729-6136 or (617) 821-0648