Further Section

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Letters to the Editor

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Gothenburg

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Dear Sir,

In their recent report, Handsted and Lindskov [Dermatologica 166:314, 1983] conclude that pityriasis amiantacea (PA) is in many cases a manifestation of psoriasis and refer to our report as stating the opposite [Dermatologica 159: 245, 1979]. We fully agree, however, that psoriatics may develop PA-like scalp lesions [Rook, Wilkinson, Ebling: Textbook of Dermatology; 3rd ed., p. 1823, 1979]. In fact, we wondered whether PA in nonpsoriatics might be the only manifestation of psoriasis in a genetically predisposed individual. We therefore excluded patients with psoriasis on the rest of the body at the initial visit. Since Handsted and Lindskov included patients with psoriasis at the initial visit without stating their number, our data are not comparable. At the follow-up we recorded the incidence of recent psoriasis by personal examination. In addition, the prevalence of HLA-A, B and C antigens and the occurrence of psoriasis in close relatives were used as (crude) markers of the psoriatic trait. No close association was found between PA and psoriasis in these selected cases. The findings support the hypothesis that PA is a reaction pattern which can be provoked by more factors than just psoriasis.