Letters to the Editor

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Pemphigus herpetiformis, Positive Indirect Immunofluorescence and a Benign Course

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With great interest we have been reading the recently published article in *Dermatologica* entitled: 'Urticaria as presenting manifestation of pemphigus herpetiformis' [1].

In their article, the authors stated that 'The course of PH is remarkably benign' and that 'The benignity of PH is confirmed by the fact that only in a minority of cases a positive indirect IF is found'.

Quite recently, we had the opportunity of studying in detail 5 patients with typical pemphigus herpetiformis (not yet published). 4 of them showed positive indirect immunofluorescence titers of IgG directed to the intercellular spaces, that is 1:40, 1:80, 1:160 and 1:320. All 5 patients developed a remarkably benign course of the disease observed in the follow-up period of 2–10 years.

Therefore we disagree with the statement that only in a minority of cases a positive indirect IF is found'. According to our experience, there is no connection at all between the benign course of the disease and circulating antibodies directed to the epidermal structures.

References

1 Parodi, A.; Nunzi, E.; Rebora, A.: Urticaria as presenting manifestation of pemphigus herpetiformis. *Dermatologica* 164: 278–283 (1982).