Drug Dosage
The authors and the publisher have exerted every effort to ensure that drug selection and dosage set forth in this text are in accord with current recommendations and practice at the time of publication. However, in view of ongoing research, changes in government regulations, and the constant flow of information relating to drug therapy and drug reactions, the reader is urged to check the package insert for each drug for any change in indications and dosage and for added warnings and precautions. This is particularly important when the recommended agent is a new and/or infrequently employed drug.

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Contents

Foreword VII

Fritsch, P. (Innsbruck): Immunodeficiency and the Skin: An Overview 1

I. Skin, an Organ of Host Defense
Elias, P.M. (San Francisco, Calif.): The Stratum Corneum as an Organ of Protection: Old and New Concepts 10
Stingl, G.; Steiner, G. (Vienna): Immunological Host Defense of the Skin 22
Noble, W.C. (London): Skin Flora of the Normal and Immune Compromised Host 37
II. Clinical and Laboratory Diagnosis of Immunodeficiency
Huber, C.; Aulitzky, W.E. (Innsbruck): Clinical Signs of Immunodeficiency 42
Knop, J. (Mainz): Diagnostic Procedures in Immunodeficiency. The Arsenal, Its Limits and Pitfalls 50

III. Primary and Secondary Immunodeficiency Syndromes
Vieluf, D.; Korting, H.C.; Belohradsky, B.H. (Munich): Eczematous Skin Lesions in X-Linked Immunodeficiency with Hyper-IgM 60
Plebani, A. (Pavia); Ugazio, A.G. (Brescia); Monafo, V. (Pavia): Selective IgA Deficiency: An Update 66
Ring, J.; Landthaler, M. (Munich): Hyper-IgE Syndromes 79
Williams, M.L. (San Francisco, Calif.): Biotin-Responsive Multiple Carboxylase Deficiency and Immunodeficiency 89
Stolz, W.; Graubner, U.; Gerstmeier, J.; Burg, G.; Belohradsky, B.H. (Munich): Chédiak-Higashi Syndrome: Approaches in Diagnosis and Treatment 93
Czarnetzki, B.M. (Basle): Disorders of Phagocyte Killing and Digestion (CGD, G-6-PD and Myeloperoxidase Deficiencies) 101
Kishimoto, T.K.; Springer, T.A. (Boston, Mass.): Human Leukocyte Adhesion Deficiency: Molecular Basis for a Defective Immune Response to Infections of the Skin 106
Tappeiner, G. (Vienna): Immunodeficiency and Complement Deficiency States 116
Wick, G.; Huber, L.A.; Offner, F.; Winter, U.; Böck, G. (Innsbruck); Schauenstein, K.; Jürgens, G. (Graz); Traill, K.N. (Innsbruck): Immunodeficiency in Old Age 120
Patsch, J.R. (Innsbruck): Immunodeficiency Due to Hormonal and Metabolic Disturbances 131

IV. Skin Manifestations in the Immunodeficient Host
Junker, K.; Avnstorp, C. (Gentofte); Moller Nielsen, C. (Copenhagen); Ebbe Hansen, N. (Gentofte): Reinfection with Varicella-Zoster Virus in Immunocompromised Patients 152
and Its Relationship to Skin Cancer in a Group of Renal Allograft Recipients. 168
Gross, G. (Hamburg); Roussaki, A. (Freiburg i. Br.); Pfister, H. (Erlangen): Recurrent Vulvar Buschke-Löwenstein’s Tumor-Like Condylomata acuminata and Hodgkin’s Disease Effectively Treated with Recombinant Inter-feron-a2c Gel as Adjuvant to Electrosurgery 178
Zangerle, R.; Fritsch, P. (Innsbruck): Candidiasis and the Immunodeficient Host: An Update 185
Kofler, H.; Fritsch, P. (Innsbruck): Cryptococcosis in the Immunocompromised Host 193
Pichler, E.; Fritsch, P. (Innsbruck): Scabies norvegica 203
Hintner, H.; Fritsch, P. (Innsbruck): Skin Neoplasia in the Immunodeficient Host. The Clinical Spectrum: Kaposi’s Sarcoma, Lymphoma, Skin Cancer and Melanoma 210

V. AIDS
Wolff, K.; Stingl, G. (Vienna): AIDS - Clinical Synopsis 218
Shearer, G.M. (Bethesda, Md.): Some Immunologic Questions and Predictions Associated with the Development of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome 236
Male, O. (Vienna): Synopsis of Mycotic Infections in AIDS 241

VI. Therapy
Luger, T.A. (Vienna): Interferons and Cytokines 269
Clark, J.W. (Frederick, Md.): Microbial Agents in Cancer Treatment 277
Haneke, E. (Wuppertal): Thymopentin in Dermatology 283

VII. Historian’s Note
Holubar, K. (Vienna): Immunodeficiency and Skin. Why Skin? 298

Subject Index 302

Foreword

This is the Proceedings Volume of the International Symposium ‘Immunodeficiency and Skin’, held during February 4-6, 1988, in Innsbruck, Austria. The meeting was the latest ‘Clinical Oriented Symposium’ of the European Society for Dermatological Research (ESDR), jointly organized
with the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Dermatologische Forschung (ADF) and sponsored by the Austrian Dermatological Society and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Innsbruck.

There were several reasons why we thought that dermatologists should discuss basic and clinical aspects of immunodeficiency. The AIDS epidemic was a very obvious one, particularly in countries like Austria, where dermatology has been placed into the frontline of action. On the other hand, immunodeficiency states of other origin, like those associated with neoplastic disease, organ transplantation and chemotherapy, are on the rise as well and present a formidable challenge to clinical medicine. In this setting the contributions of dermatology are far from being trivial. Skin and mucous membranes not infrequently display heralding and presenting signs of immunodeficiency disorders and often continue to be the site of major disease manifestations. At the same time, dermatology is not quite the same in the immunodeficient as in the normal host. We are facing new entities and unexpected new features of familiar skin disorders; diagnosis and therapy is much more complex and more intricately linked to vital body functions than we are perhaps accustomed to. We may thus predict that problems linked to immunodeficiency will have a substantial impact on clinical dermatology.

The number of immunodeficiency disorders and their dermatological implications is enormous and it was neither the scope of this symposium, nor was it possible to deal with all of them. We rather aimed at focussing on specific points which we expected to be helpful in securing the expanding limits of our specialty. Therefore, this volume does not lay claim to being a textbook. Like many Proceedings volumes, it is somewhat heterogeneous in structure, but we feel it may thus vividly convey the high spirits of the occasion.

We wish to thank all contributors as well as all those who helped us to organize this symposium and to put this volume together.

Innsbruck, June 1988

P. Fritsch
G. Schuler
H. Hintner