Reply to: Non-Bullous Pemphigoid: A Yet-to-Be Defined Disease Entity

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Keywords

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Dear Editor,

We thank Cheng and Tey for their interest in our work and the remarks in the Letter to the Editor entitled “Non-Bullous Pemphigoid: A Yet-to-Be Defined Disease Entity” [1].

We agree that there are no defined criteria for the diagnosis of non-bullous pemphigoid (NBP). Our criteria for classifying these patients were the results of a compromise between the standard criteria for the diagnosis of bullous pemphigoid (BP) [2], a reasonable time frame of the non-bullous phase and the criteria used in previous studies on NBP. We agree with the possible misclassification bias in the distinction between NBP and the prodromal phase of BP. Our main results were that patients with NBP had more heart attacks, increased intake of diuretics, and severe pruritus [3]. Comparing the 7 patients who never developed blisters with the other patients, the results did not change. However, this small group of patients did allow a formal statistical analysis.

Our database of patients with BP included 532 cases. All these patients satisfied the diagnosis of BP based on standard criteria [2]. We included only 122 patients in the analysis because only for these patients all the accessory and follow-up data were available. These patients had linear IgG and/or C3 deposits at the dermo-epidermal junction as well as anti-BP180 and/or anti-BP230, thus fulfilling the diagnostic criteria for BP, as detailed in the manuscript [3].

Your considerations on pruritus are correct. Our intent is clearly not to overdiagnose NBP in the elderly patient, but our suggestion is to consider NBP in the diagnostic algorithm for pruritus.

Key Message

Considering non-bullous pemphigoid in the diagnostic algorithm of pruritus does not necessarily mean overdiagnosing it.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

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Author Contributions

Agata Moar and Alan Azzolini: conceptualization and manuscript preparation; Gianpaolo Tessari and Donatella Schena: manuscript review; Giampiero Girolomoni: manuscript review and editing.

References

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- 3 Moar A, Azzolini A, Tessari G, Schena D, Girolomoni G. Non-Bullous Pemphigoid: A Single-Center Retrospective Study. [Dermatology](#). 2021 May 12:1–7.