A Randomized, Double-Blind, Vehicle-Controlled, Bilateral Comparison Trial of Bexarotene Gel 1% versus Vehicle Gel in Combination with Narrow-Band UVB Phototherapy for Moderate to Severe Psoriasis Vulgaris

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We report the results of a randomized, vehicle-controlled, bilateral comparison pilot study of bexarotene gel 1% with narrow-band UVB (NBUVB) phototherapy for moderate to severe psoriasis. In all, 9 patients applied drug or vehicle gel to comparable target lesions up to twice daily for 10 weeks. NBUVB was initiated 2 weeks after topical therapy had begun. Limitations include small sample size and interim analysis. Based on the analysis of target lesion scores, bexarotene gel 1% NBUVB was significantly more effective than placebo/NBUVB.

At the surgical technique. The tumor necrosis factor α antagonist (TNF-α) etanercept has been approved for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and psoriasis. Earlier reports on the use of etanercept or infliximab in patients with rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis or juvenile rheumatoid arthritis suggested an increased risk of demyelinating disease. It is imperative that dermatologists have a keen awareness of this possible adverse event given the increased use of this class of drugs. We report a case of demyelinating disease occurring in a patient treated for psoriasis. The relation of TNF-α antagonist therapy to demyelinating disease/multiple sclerosis is explored. It is recommended that patients be diligently screened before starting TNF-α antagonist therapy and that vigilance for symptoms of demyelinating disease/multiple sclerosis be included in follow-up examinations during treatment with these drugs.

Treatment of Recalcitrant Atopic Dermatitis with Omalizumab

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Atopic dermatitis is a common diagnosis that presents a therapeutic challenge. Although multiple therapeutic modalities exist, there is no single monotherapy that has proven exceptional in ameliorating the symptoms of this disease. Current topical and systemic therapeutic options offer benefit but carry varying degrees of adverse effects that often limit their application. We present 3 patients with severe, recalcitrant atopic dermatitis successfully treated with omalizumab.
The Epidemiology of Molluscum Contagiosum in Children
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Molluscum contagiosum (MC) is a viral disorder of the skin and mucous membranes characterized by discrete single or multiple, flesh-colored papules. Although MC as a clinical entity is well defined and commonly observed, few data regarding its epidemiology in the pediatric population exist. Our purpose was to collect epidemiologic data on children with MC with regard to age, gender, ethnicity, degree of involvement, relation to pre-existing atopic dermatitis (AD) and immune status. A retrospective chart review was conducted. All subjects were seen at 3 tertiary pediatric dermatology referral centers with 2 of the sites based at a children’s hospital. A total of 302 patient charts with the Current Procedural Terminology code diagnosis of MC seen over a 6- to 8-month period were reviewed. Approximately 80% of the patients were younger than 8 years. The majority of patients (63%) had more than 15 lesions. All but 1 patient were otherwise healthy, as determined by history and clinical examination. Approximately 24% of the patients presented with a history of previous or active coexistent AD. However, children with AD were at risk for an increased number of lesions. These data provide valuable updated information on the demographics and clinical presentation of MC in pediatric patients in the USA. Limitations include that this was a retrospective study with a population limited to tertiary pediatric dermatology referral centers.

Major Histocompatibility Complex Class I Chain-Related Gene A Polymorphisms and Extended Haplotypes Are Associated with Familial Alopecia Areata
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Alopecia areata (AA) is characterized by hair loss in patches and may progress to total loss of scalp hair, or total loss of scalp and body hair. The major histocompatibility complex (HLA) is associated with susceptibility to AA as well as other autoimmune diseases. In addition to HLA molecules, non-HLA molecules including the major histocompatibility complex I chain-related gene A (MICA), a stress-inducible antigen, are also associated with several autoimmune diseases. To investigate associations between AA and the HLA loci, 2 genes and 8 microsatellite markers spanning the HLA region were genotyped. MICA*6 was significantly associated with all phenotypes of AA (p = 0.0083), whereas MICA*5.1 was significantly associated with patchy AA (p = 0.029). Extended haplotype analysis shows the significant associations of haplotypes HLA-DQ1-DR6-MICA*5.1 (p = 0.004) and HLA-DQB1*0201-DR3-MICA*5.1 (p = 0.009) with AA. These results suggest that MICA is both a potential candidate gene and part of an extended HLA haplotype that may contribute to susceptibility to and severity of AA.

Use of High-Dose Acyclovir in Pityriasis Rosea
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Background: The association of human herpesvirus 6 (HHV-6) and HHV-7 with pityriasis rosea suggests that systemic drugs directed against HHV may hasten the recovery of patients with pityriasis rosea. Objective: The purpose of this study was to verify the efficacy of oral acyclovir in the treatment of pityriasis rosea. Methods: Eighty-seven consecutive patients were treated for 1 week with either oral acyclovir (800 mg 5 times daily) or placebo. In all patients, the time of lesion clearing and the number of new lesions appearing during treatment were recorded. Results: On the 14th day of treatment, 79% of treated patients fully regressed compared with 4% of the placebo group. The lesions cleared in 18.5 days in treated patients and in 37.9 days in the placebo group. Clearance was achieved in 17.2 days in patients treated in the first week from onset and in 19.7 days in the patients treated later. On the 7th day, there were significantly fewer new lesions in patients treated in the first week than in those treated later. Limitations: This trial was neither randomized nor double blind. Objectivity was achieved by counting the lesions. Conclusion: Acyclovir may be effective in the treatment of pityriasis rosea, especially in patients treated in the first week from onset, when replicative viral activity of HHV is probably very high.
nocytes (NHEK) in culture but is dramatically induced after the addition of PMA or γ-interferon. A similar induction of Glis1 mRNA by PMA treatment was observed in the immortalized epidermal keratinocyte cell line NHEK-HPV, whereas PMA did not induce Glis1 in HaCaT cells or in several squamous cell carcinoma cell lines. To obtain insight into its function, Glis1 and a C-terminal deletion mutant Glis1C were expressed in NHEK-HPV cells and changes in epidermal differentiation and gene expression examined. Microarray analysis revealed that Glis1C promoted PMA-induced epidermal differentiation, as indicated by increased expression of many differentiation-specific genes. This, in association with its induction in psoriasis, suggests that the transcriptional factor Glis1 is involved in the regulation of aberrant differentiation observed in psoriatic epidermis.