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ARCHIVES OF DERMATOLOGY

JULY 2001 VOLUME 137, NUMBER 7 PAGES 853-1002

STUDIES

**Mycophenolate Mofetil Is Effective
in the Treatment of Atopic Dermatitis** 870

Marcella Grundmann-Kollmann, MD;
Maurizio Podda, MD; Falk Ochsendorf, MD;
Wolf-Henning Boehncke, MD; Roland Kaufmann, MD;
Thomas M. Zollner, MD

**Primary Generalized and Localized
Hypertrichosis in Children** 877

Roopal A. Vashi, MD; Anthony J. Mancini, MD;
Amy S. Paller, MD

**Long-Pulsed Nd:YAG Laser-Assisted
Hair Removal in Pigmented Skin:
A Clinical and Histological Evaluation** 885

Tina S. Alster, MD; Holly Bryan, BS;
Carmen M. Williams, MD

**Clinical, Histological, and Immunophenotypic
Characteristics of Injection Site Reactions
Associated With Etanercept: A Recombinant Tumor
Necrosis Factor α Receptor: Fc Fusion Protein** 893

Ross Zeltser, BA; Laticia Valle, BS; Carol Tanck, BA;
Margaret M. Holyst, MD; Christopher Ritchlin, MD;
Anthony A. Gaspari, MD

**Absence of T_H2 Cytokine Messenger RNA
Expression in CD30-Negative Primary
Cutaneous Large T-Cell Lymphomas** 901

Maarten H. Vermeer, MD; Cornelis P. Tensen, PhD;
Petra M. van der Stoop; Hans W. van Oostveen, PhD;
Marianne Lund; Rik J. Scheper, PhD;
Rein Willemze, MD, PhD

**Malignant Peripheral Nerve Sheath Tumors
Associated With Neurofibromatosis
Type 1: A Clinicopathologic and
Molecular Study of 17 Patients** 908

Karen Leroy, MD, PhD; Valérie Dumas, MD;
Nadine Martin-Garcia, MSc; Marie-Claude Falzone, MSc;
Marie-Catherine Voisin, MD; Janine Wechsler, MD;
Jean Revuz, MD; Alain Créange, MD; Eric Levy, MD;
Laurent Lantieri, MD; Jacques Zeller, MD;
Pierre Wolkenstein, MD, PhD

OBSERVATIONS

**Agminated Atypical (Dysplastic) Nevi:
Case Report and Review of the Literature** 917

Ashfaq A. Marghoob, MD; Robin Blum, BS;
Robert Nossa, MD; Klaus J. Busam, MD;
Dana Sachs, MD; Allan Halpern, MD

**Detection of Clinically Amelanotic Malignant
Melanoma and Assessment of Its Margins
by In Vivo Confocal Scanning Laser Microscopy** 923

Klaus J. Busam, MD; Katherine Hester, MD;
Carlos Charles, MD; Dana L. Sachs, MD;
Cristina R. Antonescu, MD; Salvador Gonzalez, MD;
Allan C. Halpern, MD

**Improvement of Pyoderma Gangrenosum
and Psoriasis Associated With Crohn Disease
With Anti-Tumor Necrosis Factor α
Monoclonal Antibody** 930

Mei-Heng Tan, MD; Marsha Gordon, MD;
Oscar Lebwohl, MD; James George, MD;
Mark G. Lebwohl, MD

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OBITUARY

- Eugene M. Farber, MD (1917-2000)** 938
David R. Harris, MD; Robert Walton, MD

LETTER FROM ABROAD

- A Brief History of Dermatology in Iran** 936
Hossein Mortazavi, MD; Yahya Dowlati, MD, PhD;
Bijan Dowlati, MD

REVIEW

- Baldness and Coronary Artery Disease:
The Dermatologic Point of View
of a Controversial Issue** 943
Alfredo Rebora, MD

EDITORIALS

- Annual Trainee Award for 2000** 948
Seth J. Orlow, MD, PhD

- From Inflammation to Neoplasia:
Mycosis Fungoides Evolves
From Reactive Inflammatory
Conditions (Lymphoid Infiltrates)
Transforming Into Neoplastic
Plaques and Tumors** 949
Günter Burg, MD;
Reinhard Dummer, MD;
Andreas Haeffner, MD;
Werner Kempf, MD;
Marshall Kadin, MD

- Etanercept-Induced Injection
Site Reactions: Mechanistic Insights
From Clinical Findings and
Immunohistochemistry** 953
Victoria P. Werth, MD;
Arnold I. Levinson, MD

- “Luminaire”: A New Section
of the Archives of Dermatology** 956
Ponciano D. Cruz, Jr, MD; Jennifer Aranda, MD

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OFF-CENTER FOLD

- Indurated Plaques on the Arms of a 52-Year-Old Man** 957
Samuel L. Gettler, BA; Maxwell A. Fung, MD
- Necrotizing Livedo Reticularis** 957
Margretta A. O'Reilly, MD; Kappa P. Meadows, MD; Conleth A. Egan, MB, MRCPI
- Palpable Purpura on the Extremities** 957
Jonathan A. Dalton, MD; June K. Robinson, MD
- Multiple Papulonodular Lesions on the Arm** 957
Serafinella P. Cannavò, MD; Mario Vaccaro, MD, PhD; Biagio Guarneri, MD

FROM THE MMWR

- Lyme Disease—United States, 1999** 982

LUMINAIRE

- The Spirit of St Louis: Arthur Z. Eisen, MD** 984
Nominated by Alice P. Pentland, MD

THE CUTTING EDGE

- Eradication of Angiolymphoid Hyperplasia With Eosinophilia by Copper Vapor Laser** 863
Scott W. Fosko, MD; Dee Anna Glaser, MD; Cindy J. Rogers, BA

ISSUES IN DERMATOLOGY

- On First Looking Into Pernkopf's Atlas (Part 2)** 867
Scott A. Norton, MD, MPH

CORRECTION

- Foreign Bodies in Granulomatous Cutaneous Lesions of Patients With Systemic Sarcoidosis** 939
Joaquim Marcoval, MD; Juan Mañá, MD; Abelardo Moreno, MD; Isabel Gallego, MD; Yolanda Fortuño, MD; Jordi Peyrí, MD

REGULAR DEPARTMENTS

- News and Notes** 868, 972, 985
- ARCHIVES Web Quiz Winners** 937, 955
- Correspondence**
- Comments and Opinions** 964
- Vignettes** 966
- Book and New Media Reviews** 975
- ARCHIVES CME** 986
- Information for Authors and Readers** 988
- Classified Advertising** 996
- Index to Advertisers** 1002

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The *Archives of Dermatology* publishes information concerning the skin, its diseases, and their treatment. Its mission is to explicate the structure and function of the skin and its diseases and the art of using this information to deliver optimal medical and surgical care to the patient. We attempt to enhance the understanding of cutaneous pathophysiology and improve the clinician's ability to diagnose and treat skin disorders. This journal has a particular interest in publishing clinical and laboratory studies that reveal new information pertinent to the interests and needs of the medical dermatologist, dermatologic surgeon, and all those concerned with state-of-the-art care of cutaneous disease. We believe that knowledge derived from well-designed clinical trials and studies of cost-effectiveness are especially important for improving the practice of dermatology. Studies that increase the understanding of the outcome of treatment or the means by which the burden of dermatologic disease can be measured and reduced to promote the health of patients with skin disease will receive special priority. The ARCHIVES regularly publishes reports on clinical investigations, editorials, and reviews. It also features reports and discussions on clinicopathologic correlations; clinical disorders of unique didactic value; pharmacologic, medical and surgical therapeutics; and ethical, moral, socioeconomic, and political issues.