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JANUARY 2002 VOLUME 138, NUMBER 1 PAGES 1-150

STUDIES

Amyopathic Dermatomyositis: A Review by the Italian Group of Immunodermatology 23

Marzia Caproni, MD;
Carla Cardinali, MD;
Aurora Parodi, MD;
Barbara Giomi, MD;
Manuela Papini, MD;
Mario Vaccaro, MD;
Angelo Marzano, MD;
Clara De Simone, MD;
Marcello Fazio, MD;
Alfredo Rebora, MD;
Paolo Fabbri, MD

Soluble Interleukin 2 Receptor and Interleukin 1 α in Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis: A Comparative Analysis of Serum and Blister Fluid Samples 29

Oswaldo Correia, MD;
Luis Delgado, MD, PhD;
Jean-Claude Roujeau, MD, PhD;
Laurence Le Cleach, MD;
José A. Fleming-Torrinha, MD, PhD

The Combined Continuous-Wave/Pulsed Carbon Dioxide Laser for Treatment of Pyogenic Granuloma 33

Christian Raulin, MD;
Baerbel Greve, MD;
Stefan Hammes, MD



Quantifying Skin Disease Burden in Mycosis Fungoides—Type Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphomas: The Severity-Weighted Assessment Tool (SWAT) 42

Seth R. Stevens, MD;
Malcolm S. Ke, MD;
Eileen J. Parry, MD;
Julie Mark, MD;
Kevin D. Cooper, MD

Concordance Between Telepathologic Diagnosis and Conventional Histopathologic Diagnosis: A Multiobserver Store-and-Forward Study on 20 Skin Specimens 53

D. Piccolo, MD; H. Peter Soyer, MD;
W. Burgdorf, MD; R. Talamini, MD;
K. Peris, MD; L. Bugatti, MD;
V. Canzonieri, MD; L. Cerroni, MD;
S. Chimenti, MD; G. De Rosa, MD;
G. Filosa, MD; R. Hoffmann, MD;
I. Julis, MD; H. Kutzner, MD;
L. Manente, MD;
C. Misciali, MD;
H. Schaeppli, MD;
M. Tanaka, MD;
W. Tyler, MD;
B. Zelger, MD;
H. Kerl, MD

Retinoids Strongly and Selectively Correlate With Keratin 13 and Not Keratin 19 Expression in Cutaneous Warts of Renal Transplant Recipients 61

Willeke A. M. Blokk, MD;
Jurgen V. Smit, MD;
Elke M. G. J. de Jong, MD, PhD;
Monique M. G. M. Link;
Peter C. M. van de Kerkhof, MD, PhD;
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Efficacy of Itraconazole in the Prophylactic Treatment of Pityriasis (Tinea) Versicolor

Jan Faergemann, MD, PhD;
A. K. Gupta, MD, FRCPC;
A. Al Mofadi, MD, FRCPC;
A. Abanami, MD, FRCP(Edin);
A. Abu Shareeah, MD;
Greet Marynissen, PhD

69

OBSERVATIONS

Clinicopathologic Features of Skin Reactions to Temporary Tattoos and Analysis of Possible Causes

Wen-Hung Chung, MD; Ya-Ching Chang, MD;
Lih-Jen Yang, MD; Shuen-Iu Hung, PhD;
Wen-Rou Wong, MD;
Jing-Yi Lin, MD;
Heng-Leong Chan, MD

88

Melanocytic Proliferations Associated With Lichen Sclerosus

J. Andrew Carlson, MD, FRCPC;
Xiao C. Mu, MD, PhD;
Andrzej Slominski, MD, PhD;
Kaare Weismann, MD, PhD;
A. Neil Crowson, MD;
John Malfetano, MD;
Victor G. Prieto, MD, PhD;
Martin C. Mihm, Jr, MD

77

Clinical and Serological Transition From Pemphigus Vulgaris to Pemphigus Foliaceus Demonstrated by Desmoglein ELISA System

Yukiko Tsuji, MD;
Toshimitsu Kawashima, MD, PhD;
Koichi Yokota, MD, PhD;
Yasuki Tateish, MD;
Yuki Tomita, MD;
Tetsuri Matsumura, MD, PhD;
Hiroschi Shimizu, MD, PhD

95

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REVIEW

Treatment of Scleroderma 99
Allen N. Sapadin, MD; Raul Fleischmajer, MD

EDITORIALS

The Art and the Calling 107
David J. Elpern, MD

Diphencyprone for the Treatment of Alopecia Areata: More Data and New Aspects 112
Rudolf Happle, MD

Dermatomyositis: Practical Aspects 114
Joseph L. Jorizzo, MD

OFF-CENTER FOLD

A Maculopapular Rash in a Patient With Severe Diarrhea 117
Alexandra Geusau, MD; Gerhard Mooseder, MD

Papulovesicles and Fever in a 41-Year-Old Woman 117
*CPT Michael E. Murphy, MC, USA;
MAJ Andrew Montemarano, MC, USA*

Frambesiform Nodule With an Ecchymotic Ring 117
*MAJ Elizabeth W. Piantanida, MC, USA;
LTC George W. Turiansky, MC, USA;
COL Leonard C. Sperling, MC, USA;
COL Purnima Sau, MC, USA*

Unusual Papular Lesions in a Healthy Man 117
Eileen Tan, MD; Chee Leok Goh, MD

FROM THE MMWR

Investigating of Bioterrorism-Related Anthrax, 2001 137

THE CUTTING EDGE

Lidocaine Patch for Pain of Erythromelalgia 17
*Mark D. P. Davis, MB, MRCPI;
Paola Sandroni, MD, PhD*

ARCHIVES A CENTURY AGO

Two Cases of a Rare Papular Disease Affecting the Axillary Region 16

CORRESPONDENCE: COMMENTS AND OPINIONS

Patients Who Have Multiple Skin Cancers Develop New Skin Cancers at a Constant Rate 125
*C. Czarnecki;
D. Czarnecki, MD*

A Copy Editor Has No Right to Distort an Author's Meaning 125
A. Bernard Ackerman, MD

In Reply 126
Cheryl Iverson

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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.

**Perineal Ulcerations as the Presenting
Manifestation of Hemangioma** 126
Marilyn G. Liang, MD;
Ilona J. Frieden, MD

In Reply 126
James C. Shaw, MD;
Jeffrey Knispel, MD

CORRESPONDENCE: VIGNETTES

Pigmentary Demarcation Lines in Pregnancy 127
Angela Bonci, MD; Annalisa Patrizi, MD

**Successful Treatment of Impetigo
Herpetiformis With Oral Cyclosporine
During Pregnancy** 128
Naoko Imai, MD; Rikio Watanabe, MD, PhD;
Hiroshi Fujiwara, MD, PhD; Masaaki Ito, MD, PhD;
Akemi Nakamura, MD

**Follicular Toxic Effects of Chimeric
Anti-Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor
Antibody Cetuximab Used
to Treat Human Solid Tumors** 129
Arash Kimyai-Asadi, MD;
Ming H. Jih, MD, PhD

**No Detection of Human Herpesvirus 8
in Different Types of Cutaneous Angiosarcoma** 131
Regina Fink-Puches, MD; Natalie Zöchling, MD;
Peter Wolf, MD; Barbara Bäck, MD;
Helmut Kerl, MD; Hans Peter Soyer, MD

BOOK REVIEWS

**Allergic Skin Disease:
A Multidisciplinary Approach** 133
D. Y. M. Leung; Malcolm W. Greaves, eds
Reviewed by Elizabeth F. Sherertz, MD, MBA

Vein Diagnosis and Treatments 133
Robert A. Weiss; Craig Feied; Margaret A. Weiss
Reviewed by Jeffrey S. Dover, MD, FRCPC

Pathology of the Skin, 2nd ed 134
Evan R. Farmer; Antoinette F. Hood, eds
Reviewed by Sameera Husain, MD

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This Month in Archives of Dermatology 15

News and Notes 58, 73, 108

ARCHIVES CME 139

Classified Advertising 142

Index to Advertisers 150

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