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Fasciitis (not scleroderma) following prolonged exposure to an organic solvent (trichloroethylene)

Waller PA, Clauw D, Cupps T, et al. J Rheumatol 1994;21:1567-70.

Two cases of diffuse fasciitis with eosinophilia (eosinophilic fasciitis) occurring after exposure to trichloroethylene are described. One patient was exposed through contaminated underground well water. The second patient was a physicist who was exposed via contact with his skin. The syndrome described was similar to the eosinophilia-myalgia syndrome.

COMMENT: Trichloroethylene should be added to the list of chemicals that can induce a sclerodermoid syndrome.

Jeffrey P. Callen, MD

Pyoderma gangrenosum in association with psoriatic arthritis

Smith DL, White CR Jr. Arthritis Rheum 1994; 37:1258-60.

Two episodes of pyoderma gangrenosum were described in conjunction with active psoriatic arthritis. Although pyoderma gangrenosum has regularly been reported in conjunction with rheumatoid-like arthritis (either seronegative or seropositive) and enteropathic arthropathy, it has not been previously reported with psoriatic arthritis. Therapeutic issues could be of interest in such a patient; however, this patient's pyoderma gangrenosum responded to corticosteroids and the psoriasis did not flare.

Jeffrey P. Callen, MD

Report of three cases of cutaneous reactions to granulocyte macrophage-colony-stimulating factor and a review of the literature

Scott GA. Am J Dermatopathol 1995;17:107-14.

Granulocyte-macrophage colony-stimulating factor (GM-CSF) is a cytokine used to stimulate the growth and maturation of granulocytes and macrophages in a variety of clinical settings. Cutaneous side effects of GM-CSF therapy include local erythematous urticarial reactions at the site of injection as well as diffuse morbilliform eruptions that usually arise within 3 days after administration of the medication. These resolved within 10 days after the medication had been discontinued. Histologic features of eruptions include a mixed infiltrate of lymphocytes, eosinophils, and neutrophils in the papillary dermis and, in some cases, an increase in the number of dermal macrophages, which may be strikingly large and contain ingested elastin. Because patients receiving GM-CSF may also be receiving several other medications such as antibiotics, the presence of enlarged dermal macrophages is an important clue to the diagnosis of GM-CSF–induced eruptions.

Clay J. Cockerell, MD

Immunoreactivity for *bcl-2* protein in cutaneous lymphomas in lymphoid hyperplasias

Triscott JA, Ritter JH, Swanson BE, et al. J Cutan Pathol 1995;22:2-10

The B-cell leukemia/lymphoma gene *(bcl-2)* produces a unique protein product believed to protect lymphoid cells from apoptosis. This gene is frequently rearranged in nodal follicular lymphomas as well as in diffuse lymphoproliferations. In this study, the authors examined cutaneous lymphoid infiltrates and cutaneous malignant lymphomas by means of immunohistochemistry to determine whether this protein is expressed in benign as well as malignant lesions. Stains detected this protein in 58% of the malignant lymphomas and 33% of cutaneous lymphoid hyperplasias. Both primary and secondary cutaneous lymphomas stain positively for *bcl* protein. They concluded that immunoperoxidase stains for *bcl* protein are of little help in separating benign from malignant cutaneous lymphoid infiltrates or primary from secondary cutaneous lymphomas.

Clay J. Cockerell, MD

bcl-2 Protein expression in melanocytic neoplasms of the skin

Ramsay JA, From L, Kahn HJ. Mod Pathol 1995;8:143-9.

The authors evaluated the expression of *bcl-2* proto-oncogene protein products in benign and malignant melanocytic neoplasms of the skin. *bcl-2* Protein is the product of a proto-oncogene situated on chromosome 18 coding an intramitochondrial protein that protects cells from apoptosis or programmed cell death. Translocations in the gene juxtaposing it with the immunoglobulin heavy chain gene on chromosome 14 is associated with human B-cell lymphomas. Intense study has been conducted in several neoplasms evaluating the expression of this proto-onco-