

12. Cuevas S, Juarez M, Miranda R, Díaz J. Comparative analysis of human steroid sulfatase activity in pre and postpubertal males and females. *Biochem Mol Biol Inter* 1993; 30: 691–695.
13. Epstein EH, Leventhal ME. Steroid sulfatase of human leucocytes and epidermis and the diagnosis of recessive X-linked ichthyosis. *J Clin Invest* 1981; 67: 1257–1262.
14. Lench N, Stainer P, Williamson R. Simple non-invasive method to obtain DNA for gene analysis. *Lancet* 1988; 18: 1356–1358.
15. Ballabio A, Ranier JE, Chamberlain JS, Zollo M, Caskey CT. Screening for steroid sulfatase (STS) gene deletions by multiplex DNA amplification. *Hum Genet* 1990; 84: 571–572.
16. Mevorah B, Frenk E, Pescia G. Ichthyosis vulgaris showing

features of the autosomal dominant and the X-linked recessive variants in the same family. *Clin Genet* 1978; 13: 462–470.

Accepted May 14, 1999.

S. A. Cuevas-Covarrubias¹, M. Valdes-Flores² and M. R. Rivera-Vega¹ J. C. Diaz-Zagoya³ and S. H. Kofman-Alfaro¹
¹Servicio de Genética, Hospital General de México and ³Departamento de Bioquímica, Facultad de Medicina, UNAM, Dr Balmis 148 Col. Doctores, CP 06726, México DF. E-mail: sergio@servidor.unam.mx and ²Servicio de Genética, Instituto Nacional de Ortopedia, México DF, México.

Post-herpes Zoster Scar Sarcoidosis

Sir,

I read with interest the report by Corazza et al. describing a case of post-herpes zoster scar sarcoidosis (1).

Although histological findings followed patterns of cutaneous sarcoidosis, 2 questions remain concerning the diagnosis of scar sarcoidosis.

First, the patient had negative investigations for systemic sarcoidosis, whereas the previous report of sarcoidal granuloma in herpes zoster scars included bilateral hilar lymphadenopathy as a prominent radiological feature of sarcoidosis (2).

Secondly, sarcoidosis may account for granuloma formation, but "sarcoidal" granuloma formation in herpes zoster scars has also been reported in patients with chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (3).

Granulomatous tissue reactions encountered in the healing phase of lesions caused by herpes zoster virus depend on the patient's immune status. Such a hypersensitivity reaction may arise by the same mechanism in other diseases with immunological abnormalities.

I believe histopathological changes in scars, as mentioned

by Corazza et al., should be reported as sarcoid-like granuloma and use of the term (scar) sarcoidosis should be restricted to cases fulfilling several diagnostic patterns of sarcoidosis.

REFERENCES

1. Corazza M, Bacilieri S, Strumia R. Post-herpes zoster scar sarcoidosis. *Acta Derm Venereol* 1999; 79: 95.
2. Bisaccia E, Carborough DA, Carr RD. Cutaneous sarcoid granuloma formation in herpes zoster scars. *Arch Dermatol* 1983; 119: 788–789.
3. Wright AL, Cotton DW, Winfield DA, Messenger AG. Granuloma formation in herpes zoster scars. *Dermatologica* 1989; 179: 45–46.

Accepted June 9, 1999.

Vincent Barraza, MD
 14 rue du Dobropol, F-75017 Paris, France.
 E-mail: vincentbarraza@yahoo.fr

Response to the Letter by Barraza

Sir,

We are grateful to Barraza for having emphasized various aspects connected with the diagnosis of post-herpes zoster scar sarcoidosis. Scar sarcoidosis is often associated with systemic involvement, but it may occur in the absence of systemic symptoms or even precede them.

Even though previously reported cases of sarcoidal granulomas in herpes zoster scars have been observed in patients affected by chronic lymphocytic leukaemia (1, ref. 2 above), immunological abnormalities or lymphoproliferative disorders were not found in our patient. In this particular case, therefore, it is difficult for us to consider the granulomatous tissue reaction on the herpes zoster scar as

depending on immunological abnormalities. Further reports will probably resolve this question.

REFERENCE

1. Fischer G, Jaworski R. Granuloma formation in herpes zoster scars. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 1987; 16: 1261–1263.

Monica Corazza, Sandra Bacilieri and Renata Strumia
 Department of Dermatology, University degli Studi di Ferrara, Via Savonarola 9, I-44100 Ferrara, Italy.