

## ABSTRACT

### Psoriasis and Rheumatologic Manifestations in an Unselected Group of Dermatologic Patients

P. MARTINI,<sup>1</sup> G. P. RUJU,<sup>1</sup> A. PADULA<sup>2</sup> and I. OLIVIERI

<sup>1</sup>Department of Rheumatology, Lucca Hospital, Lucca, and the <sup>2</sup>Rheumatological Service, Institute of Medical Pathology, University of Pisa, Pisa, Italy

The aim of this study was to ascertain the frequency of rheumatological manifestations associated with psoriasis in a group of patients from the Dermatology Clinic at Lucca Hospital, in view of the recently formulated classification of Seronegative Spondyloarthropathies and Psoriatic Arthritis (PA).

Much attention has been devoted to the presence of enthesopathy and dactylitis. We examined 90 consecutive (42 male + 48 female) patients, selected from a group of 150 between the ages of 23 and 77 years (median 52.5<) during the period of May 91 – to June 92.

A personal and familial history was taken from all patients. During the clinical examination we evaluated all peripheral joints, those entheses most frequently involved in SpA, thoracic expansion, cervical and lumbar mobility, and the extent of psoriasis, using the PASI index. They were studied for A, B, and

C locus antigens, for inflammatory indexes, immunoglobulins, and pelvic radiographs.

The presence of sacro-iliitis was ascertained by staging pelvic X-rays, using a 'blind' observer. 25 patients (27.7%) were affected by PA; 19 of these had both spinal and peripheral involvement, with or without tendinitis, 4 had enthesopathies and dactylitis only and 2 had isolated enthesopathy.

All 25 patients fulfilled the Amor criteria for the diagnosis and classification of SpA.

The results of our study suggest that if patients with psoriasis are examined in the light of the whole clinical spectrum of SpA, the frequency of rheumatologic manifestations is much higher than the 5–10% found in other studies which evaluated only spinal and peripheral joint involvement.