

A Failure of Detection of Complementation Group in X-linked Ichthyosis

Steroid sulfatase is deficient in X-linked ichthyosis. In search of complementation groups, six kinds of co-cultivated population were made by cell fusion technique using polyethylene glycol. Fibroblasts were cultured from the skin of patients with this disease whose pedigrees were different from one another, and were assayed for steroid sulfatase activity. The measurement of this enzyme activity was performed with a sensitive radiochemical analysis using dehydroepiandrosterone sulfate as a substrate in triplicate, as described previously (1). The steroid sulfatase activity of heterokaryon cells as well as that of homokaryon cells was deficient. Complementation group could not be found in X-linked ichthyosis.

REFERENCE

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Etretinate Therapy Associated with Palmo-Plantar Lesions

We have read with interest the comment of Saurat & Merot (1) on the occurrence of palmo-plantar lesions after institution of etretinate therapy (2). On the basis of their observations the authors suggested that these lesions could represent a retinoid-induced palmo-plantar miliaria in hyperhidrotic patients. However, this explanation does not fit our patients. Firstly, none of the patients suffered from hyperhidrosis. Secondly, the clinical features and histological findings in seven patients (an additional two patients were seen following publication of our article) were not consistent with miliaria.

Recently we had the opportunity to observe a psoriatic patient who developed small red psoriatic papules with positive Auspitz' sign on the skin of the trunk shortly after oral intake of etretinate. This raises the thought that the palmo-plantar papules might represent an early stage of psoriatic lesions. Obviously, this suggestion requires further clinical and laboratory investigation.

REFERENCES

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