

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

No Differences in Filipin-cholesterol Complexes between Normal and Ichthyotic Epidermis

An increased level of cholesterol-sulphate in the epidermis and a deficiency of steroid-sulphatase are characteristic of x-linked ichthyosis. Filipin, a polyene antibiotic, interacts specifically with cholesterol in the epidermal membrane. A comparative study, using the freeze-fracture electron microscopy technique (1), was made of the epidermal filipin-cholesterol complexes from three cases with x-linked ichthyosis diagnosed by measuring the steroid-sulphatase activity of the lymphocytes (2), two with lamellar ichthyosis, and two normal controls. Epidermal filipin-cholesterol complexes were clearly observed with this technique. These epidermal tissue, did not show any prominent differences in their filipin-cholesterol complexes in terms of the numbers and distribution patterns on either the cytomembranes or the plasma membranes.

REFERENCES

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