

Extramammary Paget's Disease

Sir,

We were interested to read the paper by Morgan et al. (1), describing a case of extramammary Paget's disease (EMPD) localised to the axilla and agree that this is a rare but recognised site of involvement. The authors state that there has been only one previous United Kingdom report of axillary involvement by EMPD (2); however, we published the case of a 74-year-old female with histologically proven EMPD, without adnexal malignancy, which was localised to the left axilla and left labium majus (3). Our patient was part of a series of 5 cases with EMPD followed up after receiving local radiotherapy. There has been no sign of recurrence of disease 2 years later at either site in this patient. We would advocate consideration of radiotherapy for EMPD, if there is no dermal invasion or adnexal malignancy.

REFERENCES

1. Morgan JM, Carmichael AJ, Ritchie C. Extramammary Paget's disease of the axilla with an underlying apocrine carcinoma. *Acta Derm Venereol (Stockh)* 1996; 76: 173-174.
2. Gibson JR, Baker H, Pegum JS, Pollock DJ. Multi-focal extramammary Paget's disease. *J R Soc Med* 1983; 76: 426-427.
3. Burrows NP, Jones DH, Hudson PM, Pye RJ. Treatment of extramammary Paget's disease by radiotherapy. *Br J Dermatol* 1995; 132: 970-972.

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Response to Letter by N.P. Burrows et al.

Sir,

Thank you for forwarding the letter from Dr. Nigel Burrows and Dr. Richard Pye. We read their article in the *British Journal of Dermatology* with great interest when it came out in June 1995. At that time, we had already submitted our report to the *Acta Dermato-Venereologica*. In rare conditions such as extramammary Paget's disease (EMPD), it is particularly useful to pool knowledge and experience and we found their report on successful treatment with local radiotherapy very helpful for a recent patient with vulval EMPD, in whom we are hoping to avoid mutilating surgery.

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