

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

AN UNWARRANTED ANTI-ACNE MEDICATION

Recently, a topical anti-acne medication in the form of a lotion [Neo-medrol acne lotion—Unichem (Upjohn)] has been introduced in the market. The composition of the lotion is methylprednisolone acetate 2.5 mg, neomycin sulphate 2.5 mg, aluminium chlorhydroxide complex 100 mg, and sulphur 50 mg, per ml. The combination is highly unscientific. Intra-lesional/topical corticosteroids are occasionally used for cysts/acute inflammatory lesions as a temporary measure in acne, but the prolonged application of corticosteroid creams or lotions is undesirable and may give rise to atrophy, telangiectasia and folliculitis. Unlike topical tetracycline or erythromycin, neomycin does not have any effect in acne. Moreover, the contact hypersensitization potential of neomycin is well known. Aluminium chlorhydroxide

complex, an anti-perspirant is probably used as a gelling agent in the lotion. Lastly, though sulphur, a peeling agent might be useful in mild acne, its efficacy as a traditional remedy has been doubted of late. Thus, the lotion has ingredients which are either ineffective or of doubtful potential and is likely to be harmful with injudicious use. I am sure my fellow dermatologists will strongly discourage the use of this product. Our association should take necessary steps to see that such products are withdrawn from the market.

D A Satish

Department of Dermatology and STD
M S Ramaiah Medical College and Hospital
Gokul, Bangalore, India.
