

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEPRESSION MANIFESTING AS URTICARIA

To the Editor,

I wish to express my comments on report entitled as depression manifesting as urticaria published in IJ DVL (1993; 59: 41-2) with reference to following important statement.

They were given antihistamines and later oral corticosteroids over a period of 4 to 7 months — the poor response to treatment they were subjected to the psychiatrist — histamine release from the mast cells can be provoked by cholinergic agonists.¹

1. Patients with chronic urticaria for the period of 4 to 7 months, the disease itself might have resulted in state of depression.
2. Corticosteroids are known to produce psychiatric problems, therefore administration of corticosteroids for a long time might have resulted in state of depression.
3. Administration of imipramine in these patients might have also acted as cholinergic antagonist.¹

Therefore state of depression must have resulted due to chronicity of urticarial condition and partly due to administered drugs before submitting the patients to psychiatrist.

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Reference

1. Kolb L C. Noye's Modern Clinical Psychiatry, 7th edn. New Delhi : Oxford & IBH Publishing Co, 1970; 585-6.

REPLY

To the Editor,

We wish to thank Dr Udagani for his pertinent comments on our article 'Depression manifesting as urticaria' (IJ DVL, 1993, 59: 41-2). In view of the briefness of the report certain issues were not discussed. We wish to clarify the issues raised by Dr Udagani.

1. The content of a depression arising as a reaction to urticaria will reflect only that stress factor whereas in our cases the origin of depression was primarily related to other factors and not to the chronic skin problem.

2. In our cases the symptoms of depression were present even before treatment with steroids was initiated. Hence the steroids could not be implicated in the causation of depression, though it is possible they could have worsened.

3. The antidepressant effect of imipramine in our patients occurred gradually over 3-4 weeks. If it is due to anticholinergic effect, the effect would be sooner and seen within a few days.

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SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA ARISING FROM LIMBUS OF EYE IN XERODERMA PIGMENTOSUM

To the Editor,

Ocular neoplasms arising from the eye excluding those of eyelids constitute 11% of xeroderma pigmentosum (XP) patients.¹ They are most frequently arising from the limbus and are predominantly squamous cell