

## ABSTRACT

**An interrogative study of 142 psoriasis patients, V. N. Sehgal, V. L. Rege and V. N. Kharangate (Dept. Venereol-Dermatol. Goa Med. Coll., Panaji) Japanese J. Dermatol, 1:52, 1974.**

The incidence of psoriasis was determined in 21,441 patients of dermatologic population, of which 142 were psoriasis, giving its incidence as 0.66 percent. The mean age in the males and females was computed as 33.1 and 33.7 years respectively, while the age at onset of the disease was almost similar in males and females. The emotional undertones were the major provoking factors, although trauma, parturition and infection were incriminated in a few cases. In 4.9 percent of psoriatics, the family history was suggestive. The duration of the disease was varying from a few days to a few years, more than 50 percent however reported before a year. Remissions and exacerbations were noticed in many patients with or without treatment, but seasonal variation had no significant influence on the course of the disease. Classical populosquamous cutaneous rash and associated itching were the salient clinical features, although joint pains were featured in a few. Pitting, thickening and subungual hypertrophy were the main salient features in the nails. Very few patients had manifested clinical joint involvement, swelling of the distal interphalangeal joints being the commonest. Other associated diseases were rarely seen in these patients.

**Significance of the local sweat response in the diagnosis of leprosy, V. N. Sehgal, (Dept. Venereol Dermatol Goa Med. Coll., Panaji), Dermatological, 184:217, 1974.**

Sweat response to intradermal carbachol injection was studied in hypopigmented skin lesions of 113 patients, comprising 88 with tuberculoid and 25 with dimorphous leprosy. The results were compared with contralateral controls. The sensory status of these patches prior to the test were carefully determined in each case and the patients were grouped accordingly. The sweat response was found to be significantly lowered in hypopigmented lesions. The cutaneous sensations and sweat functions were mostly corresponding. In a few cases, however, there was a demonstrable impairment of autonomic function, although the sensory functions were normal or equivocal. This method of assessment of autonomic functions, therefore, deserves a place as a diagnostic technique in leprosy.

**Study of cutaneous mast cells in patients of physical urticaria, J. S. Pasricha, S. Roy and K. C. Kandhari, (Depts. Dermatol-Venereol and Path, A. I. I. M. S. New Delhi, Indian J Med Res, 62 : 1697, 1974.**

To assess if urticaria due to physical agents can be attributed to an increase in the number and/or size of cutaneous mast cells, toluidine blue stained sections of apparently healthy skin of patients having cold urticaria (18 cases), cholinergic urticaria (5 cases) or dermatographism (7 cases) were studied for the number and the size of mast cells and compared with those of patients having urticaria due to other causes (8 cases) and diseases other than urticaria (2 cases). Statistically, neither the number, nor the size of mast cells in the patients having physical urticaria (cold, cholinergic and dermatographism) were significantly different from those having urticaria due to other causes.