

Table II. Showing age of the patients and duration of the disease

Parameters		Drug N=30 (4)*	Placebo N=14 (2)*	t value	P value
Age of patients (in yrs)	Range	18 - 59	22 - 54		
	Mean	34.23	35.0	0.264	P>0.05
	SD	±10.15	±8.41		
Duration of disease (in yrs)	Range	1.5 - 26	2 - 15		
	Mean	7.98	6.93	0.665	P>0.05
	SD	±6.12	±4.18		

* Figure in paranthesis showing the number of patients who did not complete the trial.

patients taking drug alongwith the coaltar therapy.

was more marked in the patients taking drug (Fig. 1).

When the mean "PASI" score was plotted against the period of treatment, the linear diagram showed persistant decline which

No untoward side effect was noticed in any group throughout the period of the study.

Table III. Showing 'PASI' score of both the groups assessed at different time intervals

Assessment period	Parameters	Drug N=30	Placebo N=14	t value	P value
1st visit (Initial)	Range	8.4 - 32.4	8.4 - 32.4		
	Mean	18.87	19.91	0.474	P>0.05
	SD	±7.36	±6.48		(NS)*
2nd visit (After 4 weeks)	Range	6.0 - 27.0	7.0 - 25.2		
	Mean	13.82	15.74	1.182	P>0.05
	SD	±5.90	±4.55		(NS)*
3rd visit (After 8 weeks)	Range	4.0 - 16.5	5.6 - 18.0		
	Mean	9.70	12.24	2.126	P<0.05
	SD	±4.38	±3.32		(S)*
4th visit (After 12 weeks)	Range	1.2 - 9.3	4.2 - 14.4		
	Mean	4.74	9.47	5.261	P<0.001
	SD	±1.98	±3.08		(HS)*

*NS = Not significant; S = significant; HS = highly significant

On comparison	
I & II	T = 2.93 P<0.01
I & III	T = 5.36 P<0.001
	T = 1.971 P>0.05
	T = 3.94 P<0.001

FIG. 1. LINEAR DIAGRAM SHOWING PASI SCORE AND PERIOD OF TREATMENT

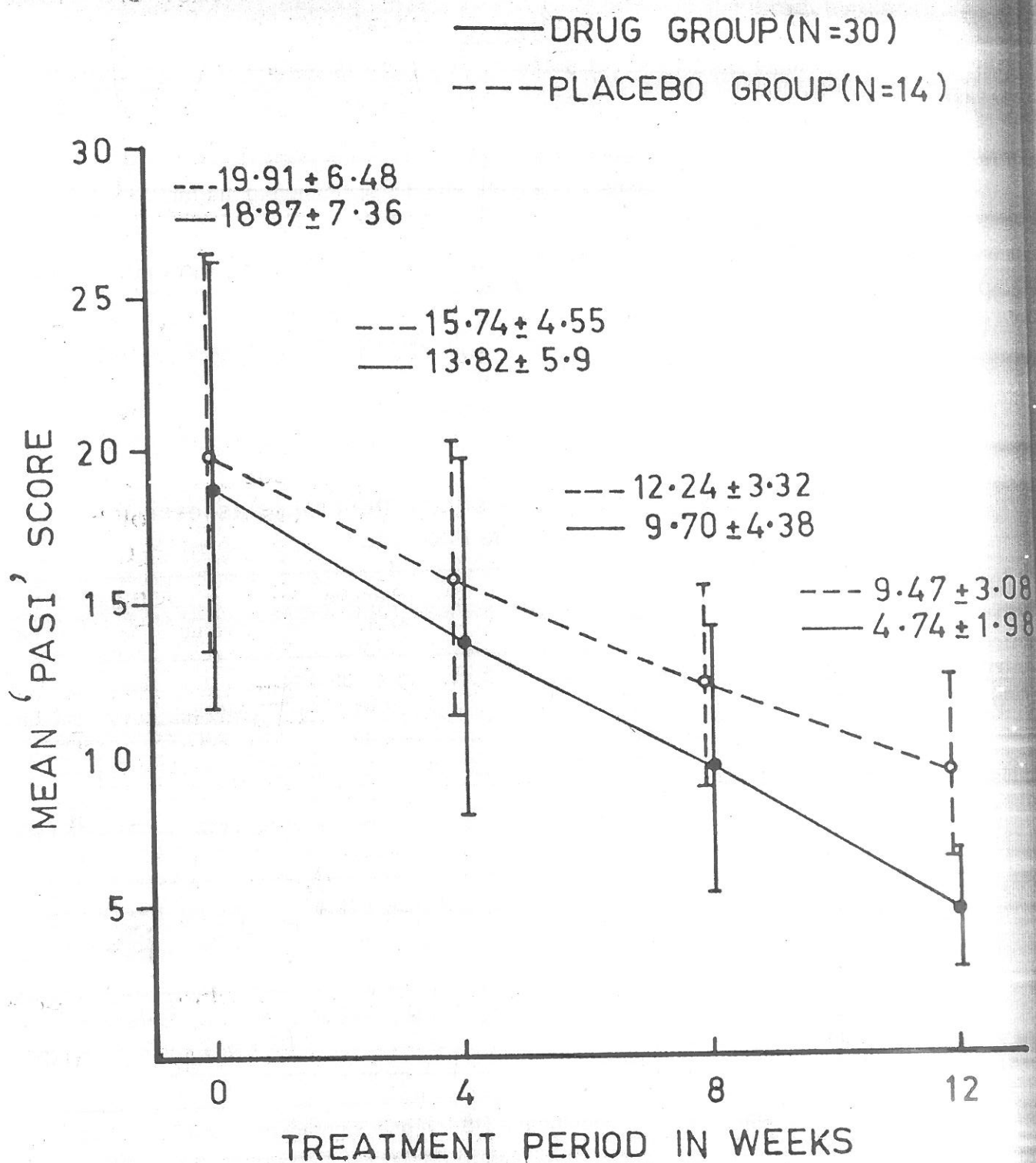


Fig. 1. Linear Diagram showing PASI score and period of treatment

Comments

Conventional crude coal tar therapy was found to be safe and effective in controlling uncomplicated psoriasis vulgaris, though the onset of action was slow.

Addition of oral aqueous extract of Neem leaf to conventional coal tar regimen has shown an excellent response and the onset of the action was quicker also.

Coal tar probably act by inhibiting the accelerated proliferation of keratinocytes, a primary alteration in psoriasis. Aqueous neem leaf extract, which contains 'Nimbidin' as a major part had shown 'Antitumour' properties.² Probably these drugs had this action in common and thus the synergistic action of the combination was responsible for quicker action.

As there were no side effect or toxic effect observed during the 12 weeks of the trial period, the combination therapy can be given safely. Probably the drug was acting as an adjuvant to coal tar therapy in patients suffering from uncomplicated psoriasis.

The capsules containing aqueous extract of Neem leaf, (Clean-N-clear capsules) and the

placebo were provided by Dabur Research Foundation.

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