

# Indian Journal of Dermatology, Venereology & Leprology

Journal indexed with SCI-E, PubMed, and EMBASE

Vol 74 | Issue 2 | Mar-Apr 2008

C O N T E N T S

## EDITORIAL

### Management of autoimmune urticaria

Arun C. Inamadar, Aparna Palit ..... 89

## VIEW POINT

### Cosmetic dermatology versus cosmetology: A misnomer in need of urgent correction

Shyam B. Verma, Zoe D. Draelos ..... 92

## REVIEW ARTICLE

### Psoriasiform dermatoses

Virendra N. Sehgal, Sunil Dogra, Govind Srivastava, Ashok K. Aggarwal ..... 94



## ORIGINAL ARTICLES

### A study of allergen-specific IgE antibodies in Indian patients of atopic dermatitis

V. K. Somani ..... 100

### Chronic idiopathic urticaria: Comparison of clinical features with positive autologous serum skin test

George Mamatha, C. Balachandran, Prabhu Smitha ..... 105



### Autologous serum therapy in chronic urticaria: Old wine in a new bottle

A. K. Bajaj, Abir Saraswat, Amitabh Upadhyay, Rajetha Damisetty, Sandipan Dhar ..... 109

### Use of patch testing for identifying allergen causing chronic urticaria

Ashimav Deb Sharma ..... 114

### Vitiligoid lichen sclerosis: A reappraisal

Venkat Ratnam Attali, Sasi Kiran Attali ..... 118



**BRIEF REPORTS**

**Activated charcoal and baking soda to reduce odor associated with extensive blistering disorders**

Arun Chakravarthi, C. R. Srinivas, Anil C. Mathew ..... 122



**Nevus of Ota: A series of 15 cases**

Shanmuga Sekar, Maria Kuruvila, Harsha S. Pai ..... 125



**Premature ovarian failure due to cyclophosphamide: A report of four cases in dermatology practice**

Vikrant A. Saoji ..... 128

**CASE REPORTS**

**Hand, foot and mouth disease in Nagpur**

Vikrant A. Saoji ..... 133



**Non-familial multiple keratoacanthomas in a 70 year-old long-term non-progressor HIV-seropositive man**

Hemanta Kumar Kar, Sunil T. Sabhnani, R. K. Gautam, P. K. Sharma, Kalpana Solanki, Meenakshi Bhardwaj ..... 136



**Late onset isotretinoin resistant acne conglobata in a patient with acromegaly**

Kapil Jain, V. K. Jain, Kamal Aggarwal, Anu Bansal ..... 139



**Familial dyskeratotic comedones**

M. Sendhil Kumaran, Divya Appachu, Elizabeth Jayaseelan ..... 142



**Nasal NK/T cell lymphoma presenting as a lethal midline granuloma**

Vandana Mehta, C. Balachandran, Sudha Bhat, V. Geetha, Donald Fernandes .....



145

**Childhood sclerodermatomyositis with generalized morphea**

Girishkumar R. Ambade, Rachita S. Dhurat, Nitin Lade, Hemangi R. Jerajani.....



148

**Subcutaneous panniculitis-like T-cell cutaneous lymphoma**

Avninder Singh, Joginder Kumar, Sujala Kapur, V. Ramesh.....



151

**LETTERS TO EDITOR**

**Using a submersible pump to clean large areas of the body with antiseptics**

C. R. Srinivas .....



154

**Peutz-Jeghers syndrome with prominent palmoplantar pigmentation**

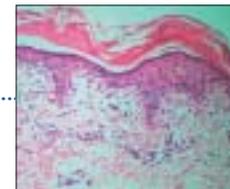
K. N. Shivaswamy, A. L. Shyamprasad, T. K. Sumathi, C. Ranganathan .....



154

**Stratum corneum findings as clues to histological diagnosis of pityriasis lichenoides chronica**

Rajiv Joshi .....



156

**Author's reply**

S. Pradeep Nair .....

157

**Omalizumab in severe chronic urticaria**

K. V. Godse.....

157

**Hypothesis: The potential utility of topical eflornithine against cutaneous leishmaniasis**

M. R. Namazi .....

158

**Nodular melanoma in a skin graft site scar**

A. Gnaneshwar Rao, Kamal K. Jhamnani, Chandana Konda .....



159

**Palatal involvement in lepromatous leprosy**

A. Gnaneshwar Rao, Chandana Konda, Kamal Jhamnani.....



161

**Unilateral nevoid telangiectasia with no estrogen and progesterone receptors in a pediatric patient**

F. Sule Afsar, Ragip Ortac, Gulden Diniz.....



163

**Eruptive lichen planus in a child with celiac disease**

Dipankar De, Amrinder J. Kanwar.....



164

**Xerosis and pityriasis alba-like changes associated with zonisamide**

Feroze Kaliyadan, Jayasree Manoj, S. Venkitakrishnan.....

165

**Treatment of actinomycetoma with combination of rifampicin and co-trimoxazole**

Rajiv Joshi.....



166

**Author's reply**

M. Ramam, Radhakrishna Bhat, Taru Garg, Vinod K. Sharma, R. Ray, M. K. Singh, U. Banerjee, C. Rajendran.....

168

**Vitiligo, psoriasis and imiquimod: Fitting all into the same pathway**

Bell Raj Eapen.....

169

**Author's reply**

Engin Şenel, Deniz Seçkin.....

169

**Multiple dermatofibromas on face treated with carbon dioxide laser: The importance of laser parameters**

Kabir Sardana, Vijay K. Garg.....

170

**Author's reply**

D. S. Krupa Shankar, A. Kushalappa, K. S. Uma, Anjay A. Pai.....

170

**Alopecia areata progressing to totalis/universalis in non-insulin dependent diabetes mellitus (type II): Failure of dexamethasone-cyclophosphamide pulse therapy**

Virendra N. Sehgal, Sambit N. Bhattacharya, Sonal Sharma, Govind Srivastava, Ashok K. Aggarwal.....



171

**Subungual exostosis**

Kamal Aggarwal, Sanjeev Gupta, Vijay Kumar Jain, Amit Mital, Sunita Gupta.....

173

**Clinicohistopathological correlation of leprosy**

Amrish N. Pandya, Hemali J. Tailor ..... 174

**RESIDENT'S PAGE**

**Dermatographism**

Dipti Bhute, Bhavana Doshi, Sushil Pande, Sunanda Mahajan, Vidya Kharkar ..... 177

**FOCUS**

**Mycophenolate mofetil**

Amar Surjushe, D. G. Saple ..... 180

**QUIZ**

**Multiple papules on the vulva**

G. Raghu Rama Rao, R. Radha Rani, A. Amareswar, P. V. Krishnam  
Raju, P. Raja Kumari, Y. Hari Kishan Kumar ..... 185



**E-IDVL**

**Net Study**

**Oral isotretinoin is as effective as a combination of oral isotretinoin and topical anti-acne agents in nodulocystic acne**

Rajeev Dhir, Neetu P. Gehi, Reetu Agarwal, Yuvraj E. More ..... 187

**Net Case**

**Cutaneous diphtheria masquerading as a sexually transmitted disease**

T. P. Vetrichevvel, Gajanan A. Pise, Kishan Kumar Agrawal,  
Devinder Mohan Thappa ..... 187



**Net Letters**

**Patch test in Behcet's disease**

Ülker Gül, Müzeyyen Gönül, Seray Külcü Çakmak, Arzu Kılıç ..... 187

**Cerebriform elephantiasis of the vulva following tuberculous lymphadenitis**

Surajit Nayak, Basanti Acharjya, Basanti Devi, Satyadarshi Pattnaik,  
Manoj Kumar Patra ..... 188



**Net Quiz**

**Vesicles on the tongue**

Saurabh Agarwal, Krishna Gopal, Binay Kumar ..... 188



## **Hypothesis: The potential utility of topical eflornithine against cutaneous leishmaniasis**

Sir,

The trypanothione biosynthetic pathway is common to the trypanosomatid family of protozoa, which includes *Leishmania* and *Trypanosoma*, and is absent in the host systems. This pathway constitutes an important target for

chemotherapy against leishmaniasis. The trypanothione pathway combines two metabolic pathways: the glutathione and the polyamine biosynthetic pathways, to produce trypanothione, a glutathione-spermidine conjugate.<sup>[1]</sup>

The levels of trypanothione are increased in the *Leishmania* parasite selected for resistance to the heavy metal, arsenic. The levels of putrescine and spermidine were increased in resistant mutants. This increase is mediated by overexpression of ornithine decarboxylase, the rate-limiting enzyme in polyamine biosynthesis.<sup>[2]</sup> Fluorinated analogues of L-ornithine are powerful inhibitors of ornithine decarboxylase and inhibit the cell growth of *L. infantum* promastigotes.<sup>[3]</sup>

Eflornithine was originally used orally in the treatment of childhood hyperactivity.<sup>[4]</sup> It was used as an anti-cancer drug in 1970<sup>[5]</sup> and was later used intravenously in the treatment of African sleeping sickness.<sup>[5,6]</sup> Interestingly, hair loss was observed as an adverse effect of this treatment.<sup>[5,7]</sup> Eflornithine hydrochloride cream (13.9%) is the first topical preparation approved by the FDA in August 2000 for the reduction of facial hirsutism in women.<sup>[5]</sup> It is a potent inhibitor of ornithine decarboxylase. A topical formulation of this agent has been used for treatment of hirsute women as inhibition of ornithine decarboxylase delays the initiation of anagen and keeps hair in telogen. Therefore, eflornithine does not remove the excess hair but it causes slowing of excessive hair growth.

Given the important role of ornithine decarboxylase in the trypanothione biosynthetic pathway, eflornithine could prove to be effective against leishmaniasis. Combining this agent with glucantime could potentiate the therapeutic response of the latter and break the resistance of the resistant strains against it. Clinical studies on this subject are warranted.

**M. R. Namazi**

Department of Dermatology, Shiraz University of  
Medical sciences, Shiraz, Iran

**Address for correspondence:** Dr. M. R. Namazi,  
Dermatology Department, Faghihi Hospital, Zand Street, Shiraz, Iran.  
E-mail: namazi\_mr@yahoo.com

## REFERENCES

1. Kapoor P, Sachdev M, Madhubala R. Inhibition of glutathione synthesis as a chemotherapeutic strategy for leishmaniasis. *Trop Med Int Health* 2000;5:438-42.
2. Haimeur A, Guimond C, Pilote S, Mukhopadhyay R, Rosen BP, Poulin R, *et al.* Elevated levels of polyamines and trypanothione resulting from overexpression of the ornithine decarboxylase gene in arsenite-resistant *Leishmania*. *Mol Microbiol* 1999;34:726-35.
3. Reguera RM, Fouce RB, Cubria JC, Bujidos ML, Ordonez D. Fluorinated analogues of L-ornithine are powerful inhibitors of ornithine decarboxylase and cell growth of *Leishmania infantum* promastigotes. *Life Sci* 1995;56:223-30.
4. De Berker DA, Messenger AG, Sinclair RD. Disorders of hair. *In: Rook's Textbook of Dermatology*, Burns T, Breathnach S, Cox N, Griffiths C, editors. 7<sup>th</sup> ed, Vol.4, London: Blackwell Science; Chapter 63, 2004. p. 63.106
5. Jobanputra KS, Rajpal AV, Nagpur NG. Eflornithine. *Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol* 2007;73:365-6.
6. Powell P, Lucas K. Vaniqa (eflornithine hydrochloride). *New Drug Update* 2002;8:3.
7. Coyne P. The eflornithine story. *J Am Acad Dermatol* 2001;45:784-6.