

Elegy on the death of a pemphigus patient

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With a stink too powerful to say
In a corner ICU bed, he lay
His dermis was bare
His epidermis peeled off in layers
A death-like pallor in his eyes
With the pain that never dies
He took the last gasp of sighs
As the battle went from lows to highs
Yet in his heart, he knew his fate
A price paid for being too late
Spewed from his body's own hate
Against his skin, in relentless spate
Yet in the valley of coma and sleep
Once more, he walked with a speedy leap
To his golden farmland, harvested heap
Or to his family, a love too deep.
Yet Pemphigus in one fell swoop
Pain and misery's endless loop
A life lost too soon
As death in large before him did loom
And death, like a master, ended his pain
Forever freeing him from Pemphigus' chain
A young dermatologist's efforts lay in vain
Despite the lesson, the only gain.

Note: With the availability of newer drugs like rituximab, the outcome for pemphigus has improved dramatically. While death from pemphigus is now rare, delay in presentation remains the most common cause of fatalities.

Declaration of patient consent: Patient's consent not required as there are no patients in this study.

Financial support and sponsorship: Nil.

Conflicts of interest: There are no conflicts of interest.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for manuscript preparation: The author confirms that there was no use of artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technology for assisting in the writing or editing of the manuscript and no images were manipulated using AI.

How to cite this article: Chakraborty A. Elegy on the death of a pemphigus patient. Indian J Dermatol Venereol Leprol. 2025;92:266. doi: 10.25259/IJDVL_1413_2025

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Received: August, 2025 **Accepted:** September, 2025 **Epub Ahead of Print:** October, 2025 **Published:** February, 2026

DOI: 10.25259/IJDVL_1413_2025 **PMID:** 41655113

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