February 2021: This Month in *JAAD Case Reports*

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Porokeratoses are notoriously difficult to treat and, until recently, therapies were primarily destructive. In the January 2020 issue of *Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology*, Atzmony et al[1] reported their success with a novel pathogenesis-based therapy using compounded topical cholesterol/lovastatin. In accordance with the mevalonate pathway gene mutations associated with porokeratoses, they sought to block the accumulation of the pathway's toxic metabolites with a topical statin and replenish the pathway's end product with topical cholesterol.

In the October edition of *JAAD Case Reports*, Ugwu et al[2] applied this same theory to a patient with disseminated superficial actinic porokeratosis and an *MVD* mutation. They noticed significant improvement with compounded cholesterol/lovastatin, but no improvement with topical cholesterol alone. They also found that monotherapy with topical 2% lovastatin was just as effective as the cholesterol/lovastatin combination. Not only does this discovery provide a potential novel treatment for porokeratoses but also it provides further insight about the possible pathogenesis of this elusive condition.

REFERENCES

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