

This Month in *JAAD*: March 2021



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In this issue of the *JAAD*, two continuing medical education manuscripts address the pathogenesis of cutaneous T-cell lymphoma and emerging information about therapeutic targets. Kartan et al (page 615) performed a retrospective cross-sectional review of patients with cutaneous T-cell lymphoma treated with topical corticosteroid monotherapy and report a 73% response rate. They remind us that topical steroid monotherapy may be an effective option, especially in patients with early-stage disease. Greenberg et al (page 639) report retrospective data on the prevalence of comorbidities with palmo-plantar psoriasis. Regression analysis demonstrated associations with mood disorders, cardiovascular disease, and diabetes mellitus. Odds ratios demonstrated the strongest association with mood disorders.

Stein Gold et al (page 624) and Paller et al (page 632) report trials of tapinarof cream for the treatment of plaque psoriasis and atopic dermatitis. Tapinarof, a topical aryl hydrocarbon receptor modulating agent showed improvement in psoriasis with responses apparent from week 2, with significant efficacy at week 8 maintained through week 16. Dr Paller's group performed a Phase IIb, double-blind, randomized, vehicle-controlled study of adolescents and adults with atopic dermatitis with improvement in Eczema Area and Severity Index, and Patient-Oriented Eczema Measure scores. Most adverse events were mild or moderate. Larger prospective studies are required to confirm these findings.

Gao et al (page 644) report on pancreatic injury and hepatotoxicity in patients with Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis. They suggest that overexpression of interleukin (IL)-18 might be involved suggesting a potential therapeutic

Abbreviations used:

AA: alopecia areata
IL: interleukin

target. Galligan et al (page 654) describe features of high flow vascular stains with the appearance of capillary malformations (port wine stains) but with increased arterial flow. The majority were flat and warm with well-defined borders and heterogeneous color saturation. Peripheral pallor, soft tissue overgrowth and head and neck location were common.

Akiyama et al (page 676) performed a systematic review and meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials examining the risk of respiratory tract infections in 10,907 patients treated with IL-12/23 or IL-23 antagonists. While the results do support an increased risk of respiratory tract infections ($P = .007$), they did not demonstrate an increased risk of *viral* upper respiratory tract infections. These results may help us to counsel patients during the current pandemic. Xie et al (page 701) examined modifiable lifestyle and environmental factors associated with psoriatic arthritis. They included 16 studies of 322,967 individuals. Obesity, physical trauma and fracture were associated with an increased risk.

Ramos et al (page 712) report an association between frontal fibrosing alopecia and hair straightening with formalin, use of nondermatologic facial soap, facial moisturizer, thyroid disorders and rosacea. They did not find an association with the use of sunscreens. Their study was limited by possible recall bias. Rodriguez (page 719) studied the frequency and timing of subsequent cutaneous

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squamous cell carcinoma, among patients with primary cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. About one-fifth presented with the next tumor within six months and over one-third within one year.

Randolph et al (page 737) review the effectiveness of low dose oral minoxidil in patients with alopecia. They evaluated 16 studies with 622 patients treated mostly for pattern (androgenetic) alopecia, but also telogen effluvium, lichen planopilaris, loose anagen hair syndrome, monilethrix, alopecia areata (AA), and permanent chemotherapy-induced alopecia. Limitations include heterogeneity of study designs. Data suggest that oral minoxidil may be a well-tolerated alternative to topical therapy in some patients. Beach et al (page 761) report their experience with oral minoxidil in the setting of AA, and Shin et al (page 782) suggest that simvastatin improves AA through inhibition of NF- κ B, the JAK/STAT pathway, ROS, and activation of the Wnt/ β -catenin signaling pathway. Mackay-Wiggan et al (page 841) examined the

effects of abatacept in AA based on strong genetic susceptibility at the CTLA4 locus. They performed an open-label single-arm clinical trial of abatacept in 15 patients with moderate to severe patchy type AA, and suggest that abatacept may be useful for a subset of patients with AA as a single agent as a part of combination therapy.

Tu et al (page 779) report data on the efficacy and tolerability of 5-aminolevulinic acid photodynamic therapy vs carbon dioxide laser therapy for the treatment of genital warts. 5-Aminolevulinic acid photodynamic therapy was better tolerated with no scars or urethral stricture. Pitney et al (page 861) report a low risk of inadequate staging when pigmented lesions are sampled with shave/saucerization techniques, lending more support to what has become the predominant method of sampling largely macular lesions.

Conflicts of interest

None disclosed.