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## CME examination

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Montagnon CM, Tolkachjov SN, Murrell DF, Camilleri MJ, Lehman JS. J Am Acad Dermatol 2021;84:1523-37.

*Directions for questions 1-4: Choose the single best response.*

An elderly gentleman with a history of pemphigus foliaceus, who was recently in clinical remission and not receiving any specific therapy, developed a new, localized patch of involvement over his pacemaker, as shown in Fig 1.



A patient presents to your clinic with moderate-to-severe pemphigus, as shown in Fig 2.



1. Which of the following options may be the most reasonable approach to initial treatment?
  - a. Azathioprine
  - b. Cyclophosphamide
  - c. Doxycycline with niacinamide
  - d. High-dose prednisone (1 mg/kg/day)
  - e. Rituximab infusions
2. What would be an appropriate initial therapy if this patient were instead experiencing a flare of pemphigus herpetiformis?
  - a. Avoidance of ultraviolet radiation, with or without antimalarials
  - b. Dapsone, with or without the addition of systemic corticosteroids
  - c. Plasmapheresis and intravenous immunoglobulins
  - d. Rituximab and a tapering course of prednisone
  - e. Strict gluten-free diet
3. Which of the following is true regarding treatment?
  - a. Azathioprine is a fast-acting, steroid-sparing agent that consistently improves moderate-to-severe pemphigus
  - b. Systemic corticosteroids are contraindicated in patients with moderate-to-severe pemphigus
  - c. The primary goal of treatment of moderate-to-severe pemphigus is symptom relief
  - d. The treatment of choice for moderate-to-severe pemphigus is rituximab
  - e. Topical corticosteroids have been shown to be equivalent to systemic corticosteroids in the treatment of moderate-to-severe pemphigus

4. Of the methods listed below, which of the following is the most reliable way to assess disease activity in this patient with pemphigus?
  - a. BPDAI score
  - b. Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for serum antibodies against desmoglein 1 and desmoglein 3
  - c. Indirect immunofluorescence titers
  - d. PASI score
  - e. PDAI score