

## June 2021: Acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis in Asia



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This month in *JAAD International*, Oh and colleagues<sup>1</sup> explored the epidemiology of acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) in an academic medical center in Singapore. In their retrospective analysis of a decade of data, the authors noted that overall patient outcomes were favorable, with no direct AGEP-related mortality, and cases resolved after removal of the offending agent. They also noted that hospital stays were moderately reduced for those treated with systemic steroids—although as patients were not randomized to this treatment, multiple biases, including selection and referral biases, may have affected their results.

With that being said, the authors did note 2 cases of mortality attributed to other in-hospital events (line sepsis and pneumonia), highlighting the potential for nosocomial events to exert a major effect on patient outcomes. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has become *de rigueur* to appreciate the value of keeping patients “out” of hospital, and these tangential findings further highlight the value of so many of our approaches in dermatology, both medical and surgical, in accomplishing this goal.

### Abbreviation used:

AGEP: acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis

Beyond the inherent value of providing an improved understanding of AGEP outcomes in Singapore, the authors’ approach also highlights the value of national health systems and comprehensive electronic medical records, which may provide an important and valuable source of data that can be used to improve outcomes for both the individual patient and society. Still, as with registry studies, any findings gleaned from such data sources should be viewed with caution, as validation concerns—in addition to bias—should be considered.

### Conflicts of interest

None disclosed.

### REFERENCE

1. Oh DAQ, Yeo YW, Choo KJL, Pang SM, Oh CC, Lee HY. Acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis: epidemiology, clinical course, and treatment outcomes of patients treated in an Asian academic medical center. *JAAD Int.* 2021;3:1-6.

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