strengthened. Direct pathogenic significance for psoriasis is thus considerably strengthened.

Previously reported changes of the molecular weight composition of fucose-labeled glycopeptides from psoriatic uninvoluted skin [1] appear to be caused by differences in the Con-A-unbound glycopeptides (Table III). Presumably, the more highly branched structures (triantennary and higher) are present in reduced quantity in the fucosylated glycoproteins of psoriatic uninvoluted epidermis compared to normal, in view of the results after neuraminidase treatment (Table III).

The molecular weight distribution of fucose-labeled glycopeptides from psoriatic lesions, showing a relative increase in high-molecular-weight structures compared to normal [1], appears largely to be the consequence of an increased percentage of triantennary and higher-branched structures (Table II). In addition, molecular weight distributions of Con-A-bound as well as Con-A-unbound glycopeptides from psoriatic lesions demonstrate that high-molecular-weight species are present to a greater extent than in normal skin. In summary, the glycopeptide composition observed for psoriatic lesions cannot be explained in terms of an increased growth fraction. This conclusion is valid regardless of whether the increase results from an absolute increase in cycling cells, such as occurs during the regeneration response, or whether it is a consequence of a reduction in the proportion of differentiated cells in the overall population. The possibility that our previous findings are of direct pathogenic significance for psoriasis is thus considerably strengthened.

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REFERENCES


An International Conference on Cutaneous Oncology will be held at The Hague, The Netherlands, September 12-16, 1983. The format will include lectures, workshops, and seminars presented by an international faculty as well as free communications and poster sessions. For further information: Richard L. Dobson, M.D., Department of Dermatology, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina 29425.

The Annual Meeting of the British Society for Investigative Dermatology will take place at the University of Nottingham on September 30 to October 1, 1983. The program will include sessions for both formal (oral) and poster communications. Abstracts should be submitted on the new official forms and must be received by July 8, 1983. For further information: Dr. R. A. J. Eady, Chairman, B.S.I.D., Institute of Dermatology, Homerton Grove, London E9 6BX.