Method to induce stable atopic dermatitis-like symptoms in NC/Nga mice

We attempted to improve experimental conditions to induce stable atopic dermatitis-like symptoms in NC/Nga mice. In NC/Nga mice kept together with skin-lesioned mice, stable skin lesions were induced at an early stage and scratching behaviour significantly increased from day 3, without skin lesions. It was considered that parasitism by mites, not an allergic reaction, was the cause of the skin lesions and the scratching behaviour. This method could be useful for investigating factors affecting symptoms of atopic dermatitis, and mechanisms of the itching. (Br J Dermatol 2006; 154: 426–430)

The course of eczema in children aged 5–7 years and its relation to atopy: differences between boys and girls

The course of atopic and nonatopic eczema in preschool children with special focus on gender aspects has not previously been investigated in cross-sectional studies. In German studies conducted between 1994 and 2000, a total of 2693 girls and 2783 boys (age range 5–7 years) underwent a full dermatological examination and determination of sensitization (skin prick tests, serum IgE antibody analyses). Among the girls, 8.7% demonstrated eczema clinically at the day of investigation in contrast to 6.1% of the boys. In girls, eczema beginning before 2 years of age was strongly related to atopy at age 5–7 years (OR 3.7; 95% CI 2.7–5.1), whereas eczema starting later than 2 years of age was not (OR 1.0; 95% CI 0.7–1.5). Boys were more often atopic at the age of 5–7 years than girls (28.3% vs. 20.6%) and the age at onset of eczema was in no way related to atopy. Thus preschool boys are more often atopic, whereas preschool girls suffer significantly more often from eczema without relation to atopy. (Br J Dermatol 2006; 154: 505–513)

The presence of dominant T-cell clones in peripheral blood of patients with collagen vascular disorders: a prospective study of 97 cases

Although of potential importance, T-cell dysfunction has seldom been investigated in collagen vascular disorders. This study using a PCR-based method targeting the T-cell receptor γ chain demonstrated that a dominant T-cell clone is frequently present in peripheral blood of these patients when compared with control subjects, especially in the different subsets of scleroderma. The relevance of these data is still to be determined but they might open new perspectives in the understanding of these diseases while clinical implications including additional diagnostic clues, prognostic indicators or therapeutic response prediction are promising. (Br J Dermatol 2006; 154: 445–449)

Equal efficacy of 5- and 8-methoxypsoralen in PUVA of mycosis fungoides

Despite the introduction of new drugs such as the biologics into dermatology, psoralen plus ultraviolet A (PUVA) remains the standard treatment for mycosis fungoides. Wackernagel et al. report on the use of 5-methoxypsoralen (5-MOP) compared with standard 8-MOP for PUVA of early-stage mycosis fungoides. Both psoralens showed similar high complete clinical response rates (approximately 90%) but also comparable relapse rates, irrespective of whether or not early maintenance treatment was given. The observation that 5-MOP (which produced fewer side-effects such as nausea, vomiting and headache) was equally effective to 8-MOP makes the former an attractive alternative for PUVA of mycosis fungoides. (Br J Dermatol 2006; 154: 519–523)