Filaggrin null mutations increase the risk and persistence of hand eczema in subjects with atopic dermatitis: results from a general population study

This study investigated the association between hand eczema and filaggrin null mutations. In total, 3335 adults were questioned, patch tested and genotyped for the two most common filaggrin null mutations R501X and 2282del4. Logistic regression analyses revealed positive associations between hand eczema within the past 12 months and filaggrin null mutation status in participants with a history of atopic dermatitis (AD) [odds ratio (OR) 2.98; 95% confidence interval (CI) 1.27–7.01], but not in subjects without AD (OR 0.82; 95% CI 0.41–1.67). Subjects with combined AD and filaggrin null mutation had an earlier onset, a higher persistence of hand eczema, and a higher frequency of contact allergy (17.9% vs. 9.4%) compared with subjects with normal filaggrin status and without AD. Br J Dermatol 2010; 163: 113–18.

Epstein–Barr virus involvement in the pathogenesis of hydroa vacciniforme: an assessment of seven adult patients with long-term follow-up

Verneuil et al. studied blood EBV DNA load and viral detection in skin samples of phototest-induced lesions from seven adult patients with hydroa vacciniforme (HV) compared with 35 controls with other photosensitive disorders. Blood EBV DNA load was positive in the seven patients with HV at 4–45 years after the initial eruption, and was negative in 34 of 35 controls ($P < 0.001$). Levels were higher in photosensitive than in not photosensitive patients with HV. Such a persistence of EBV infection in adult patients with typical HV has not previously been reported and might be a useful biomarker in HV. Br J Dermatol 2010; 163: 172–80.