Benign familial chronic pemphigus
Hailey-Hailey Disease
Familial benign pemphigus is inherited as an autosomal dominant trait, with a family history obtainable in about two thirds of affected individuals.
Although, as in Darier's disease, early lesions may show small suprabasal separations,
narrow strands of epidermal cells proliferate downward into the dermis. Many cells of the detached stratum malpighii show loss of their intercellular bridges; thus, acantholysis affects large portions of the epidermis.

Individual cells and groups of cells usually are seen in large numbers in the bulla cavity. Despite the extensive loss of epidermal cells, the epidermal detachment is not complete as individual epidermal cells are still attached to each other by intercellular bridges. This loose adherence of the epidermis to the dermis gives the detached epidermis a characteristic appearance of a dilapidated brick wall.
Differentiation of familial benign pemphigus from Darier’s disease as a rule is not very difficult, because in both, the suprabasal region; and dyskeratosis consisting of the formation of corps ronds and grains is much more evident.

Pemphigus vulgaris often resembles familial benign pemphigus to a striking degree, and in some specimens, histologic features of both diseases are not distinguishable. In such cases, immunofluorescence will decide the issue.
There used to be much discussion as to whether familial benign pemphigus represents a vesicular variant of Darier's disease.
Evidence against a relationship is also shown by the fact that in affected families, always only one of the diseases can be explained by a mutation on chromosome 3q, while Darier's disease is due to a mutation in the ATP2A2 gene on chromosome 12.
Many of the cells of the stratum malpighii that have lost all or most of their intercellular bridges show a fairly normal cytoplasm and a normal nucleus in which mitotic activity has even been observed. Some of the acantholytic cells, however, have a homogenized cytoplasm, suggesting premature partial keratinization. In general, these cells resemble the grains of Darier's disease. Occasionally, a few corps ronds are present in the granular layer.

**Differential Diagnosis**

Histologically, familial benign pemphigus shares certain features with both Darier...
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