Psoriasis

Psoriasis may be divided into psoriasis vulgaris, generalized pustular psoriasis, and localized pustular psoriasis.

**Psoriasis Vulgaris**  Clinical Features
Psoriasis vulgaris is a common chronic inflammatory skin disorder that affects approximately 1.5% to 2% of the population...
associated with acute group A ~-hemolytic streptococcal infections. Involvement of the nails is common.
Spongiform pustules of Kagoj in Psoriasis = اﻠﺼدﻒ ﻓﻲ اﻠﺸﻜﻞ اﻠاﺴﻔﻨﺠﻴﺔ اﻠﺒﺜراﺖ
Psoriatic arthritis characteristically involves the terminal interphalangeal joints, but frequently the large joints are also involved. 

**Generalized Pustular Psoriasis**

**Clinical Features**

Generalized pustular psoriasis includes (a) acute generalized pustular psoriasis (von Zumbusch type and...
This cutaneous eruption is characterized by the presence of variable numbers of sterile pustules appearing in crops on the chest and legs. Several exacerbations may occur, and lesions of ordinary psoriasis may be seen in the intervals between them.

The four variants of generalized pustular psoriasis show considerable resemblance and overlapping in their clinical picture and also have a similar histologic appearance. They differ mainly in the mode of onset and the distribution of the lesions. Frequently, all four diseases show oral pustules, particularly on the tongue.

**Acute generalized pustular psoriasis von Zumbusch** is generally diagnosed when the pustular eruption occurs in patients with preexisting psoriasis, either of the plaque type or of the erythrodermic type. Frequently, the eruption occurs after systemic steroid therapy withdrawal.
Generalized pustular psoriasis of pregnancy is a rare pustular eruption that appears during the last trimester of pregnancy. It starts with flexural lesions of the palms and soles, and later spreads to the trunk and extremities. Although it is associated with pregnancy, it may also occur in women not pregnant. It may occur repeatedly during successive pregnancies. Some authors have considered it to be the same disease as impetigo herpetiformis, but others claim that they stand as separate entities.

In some instances of subacute annular pustular psoriasis or gyrate lesions show a clinical resemblance...
Very rarely, children develop generalized pustular psoriasis, also known as infantile and juvenile pustular psoriasis. The disease has a benign course with frequent spontaneous remissions.

**Localized Pustular Psoriasis**

**Clinical Features**
There are three types of localized pustular psoriasis: (a) "psoriasis with pustules", in which only one or a few areas...
Acrodermatitis continua of Hallopeau is the term used when the pustular eruption involves the distal portions of the hands and feet. In the localized type of... portions of extremities are involved. Atrophy of the skin and permanent nail loss may occur on the fingers and toes.

Pustulosis palmaris et plantaris is a chronic, relapsing disorder occurring on the... seated pustules.
Psoriasis and Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
The association between psoriasis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is commonly seen. The prevalence of psoriasis in HIV-infected individuals is estimated to be 8% to 10% (108). Extensive erythrodermic psoriasis may occur (109). Palmoplantar involvement, flexural (inverse) psoriasis, and psoriatic arthritis may be present. In cases where HIV is found, a trend of low peripheral T-cell CD4+ (helper-inducer) counts and a more severe clinical course have been noted.
Psoriasis Vulgaris

Histopathology
The histologic picture of psoriasis vulgaris varies considerably with the stage of the lesion and usually is diagnostic only in early, scaling papules and near the margin of advancing plaques.

The earliest pinhead-sized macules or smooth-surfaced papules show subtle histologic changes with a preponderance of ... by an early scaling papule, a histologic diagnosis of psoriasis can often be made. In some cases, when there is marked
exocytosis of neutrophils, they may aggregate in the uppermost portion of the spinous layer to form small
In the fully developed lesions of psoriasis, as best seen at the margin of enlarging plaques, the histologic picture is characterized by:

- The formation of spongiform pustules of Kagoj
- Elevation of the epidermis
- Inflammatory infiltration
- Formation of Munro microabscesses
- Elongation and edema of the dermal papillae
- Dilated and tortuous capillaries
Of the listed features, only the spongiform pustules of Kogoj and Munro microabscesses are truly diagnostic of psoriasis, as these changes may rarely be made with certainty on a histologic basis. The changes in active psoriasis are discussed in detail later.

The rete ridges show considerable elongation and extend downward to a uniform level, resulting in regular acanthosis.
show thickening ("clubbing") in their lower portion. Not infrequently, adjacent rete ridges seem to coalesce...
The suprapapillary epidermis appears relatively thin in comparison with the markedly elongated rete ridges...
In some instances the cornified layer consists entirely of confluent parakeratosis forming a platelike scale.

Munro microabscesses are located within the parakeratotic areas of the cornified layer. They consist of...
The dermal papillae, in accordance with the elongation and basal thickening of the rete ridges, are elong...
An entirely typical histologic picture as described earlier is not always found, even if the biopsy specimens...

indicates a fluctuation in the activity of the psoriasis.

The bleeding points that may be produced by gentle scraping of the skin (Au spitz sign) correspond to the...
Guttate or eruptive psoriasis shows the histologic features of an early or active lesion of psoriasis, where there is more pronounced inflammatory response. The cornified layer overlying the mounds of parakeratosis with neutrophils, which, in turn, may appear loosely arranged.

The histologic picture of erythrodermic psoriasis in some instances shows enough of the characteristics of a generalized pustular psoriasis.
Histopathology
Whereas in ordinary psoriasis the spongiform pustule of Kogoj is a very small micropustule and is seen only in early ...
In addition to the large spongiform pustules, the epidermal changes in generalized pustular psoriasis are...
In the healing stage, the lesions of all types of generalized pustular psoriasis may present the same histologic appearance as ordinary psoriasis.

Localized Pustular Psoriasis
Histopathology

In the variants of localized pustular psoriasis "psoriasis with pustules" and localized annular pustular psoriasis, the histologic picture is the same as that described for generalized pustular psoriasis. In localized acrodermatitis continua of Hallopeau, the nail bed is mainly affected, showing marked epithelial hyperplasia and hyperkeratosis with mounds of parakeratosis with neutrophils. The nail matrix is only occasionally involved.
In pustulosis palmaris et plantaris there is a fully developed large intraepidermal unilocular pustule. It is elevated ... the pustule. In many instances one can observe typical, although small, spongiform pustules in the epidermal wall of the pustule, most commonly at the junction of the lateral walls and the overlying epidermis. These spongiform pustules are identical to those seen in the walls of the pustules of generalized pustular psoriasis.
Very early lesions may show spongiosis and exocytosis of lymphocytes in the lower epidermis overlying...
Histopathology

The histologic picture in most cases is similar to that of psoriasis. In others, the histologic sections may show some plasma cells. As in other dermatitides related to AIDS, eosinophils may be present in the inflammatory infiltrate.
Pathogenesis of Psoriasis Vulgaris

Although the cause of psoriasis is unknown, there is increasing evidence of a complex interaction among...
Electron Microscopy
The earliest recognizable morphologic events in psoriasis have been investigated in lesions that cleared...
Ultrastructural studies of the spongiform pustule of Kogoj, one of the most characteristic histologic structures...

The ultrastructure of the capillary loops in the dermal papillae shows them to be different from normal cap...
Epidermal Cell Cycle Kinetics
The rate of epidermal cell replication is markedly accelerated in active lesions of psoriasis, as shown by
Early calculations made it appear likely that in psoriatic lesions there was a great acceleration of the transit time of the cell layer, from approximately 53 days in normal epidermis to only 7 days in the epidermis of active psoriatic lesions.

Further investigations have found that (a) the germinative cell cycle is shortened from 311 to 36 hours, indicating that there is a doubling of the proliferative cell population in psoriasis from 27,000 to 52,000 cells/mm² of epidermal surface area, and (c)
100% of the germinative cells of the epidermis enter the growth fraction instead of only 60% for normal subjects.

The source of the cycling cells in the suprabasal layers of the epidermis is not well defined. They could be...
Recent studies suggested that psoriatic epidermis shows aberrant expression of apoptosis-related molecules.
Keratinocyte Differentiation
Keratinocytes undergo the process of differentiation as they migrate upward through the epidermis from...
Spongiform pustules of Kagoj in Psoriasis

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Immunopathology
Immunologic factors play a very important role in the pathogenesis of psoriasis. Psoriasis is now regarded...
CD4+ T cells produce a variety of cytokines, including interleukin-2 (IL-2), tumor necrosis factor-a (TN Fa), and γ-interferon (γIFN), which is also produced by CD8+ T lymphocytes.
Keratinocytes stimulated by TNFα may produce IL-B, which is a potent T-lymphocyte and neutrophil chemoattractant present in increased amounts in psoriatic epidermis. This cytokine may be involved in the formation of Munro microabscesses.
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yIFN is believed to play an important role in the initiation of psoriatic lesions as demonstrated by the induction of pinpoint lesions of psoriasis at sites of yIFN injection in previously uninvolved skin.
yIFN induces the expression of the ICAM-1 in keratinocytes and endothelial cells. This molecule mediates...
not to be responsive to the growth inhibition effects of yIFN, leading to their hyperproliferative state in the disease.
Increased expression of p53 and downregulation of Bcl-2, consistent with the dynamics of psoriasis, have been shown...
Pathogenesis of Localized Pustular Psoriasis
A relationship of pustulosis palmaris et plantaris with psoriasis is not generally accepted, although two facts favor a relationship. First, a leukotactic factor identical to that noted in psoriasis has been found in pustulosis palmaris et plantaris.
Pathogenesis of Psoriasis and AIDS
There is evidence of the role of both CD8+ and CD4+ T lymphocytes and yIFN in the pathogenesis of psoriasis.
. Paradoxically, as T-helper cell counts decline, it appears that psoriatic lesions exacerbate until a preterminal stage, it was shown that ylFN serum levels were much higher in HIV-positive psoriatic patients than HIV-negative subjects.
The immunodysregulation resulting from HIV infection may trigger psoriasis in those genetically predisposed.
Differential Diagnosis
Two histologic features are of great value in the diagnosis of psoriasis vulgaris: (a) mounds of parakeratosis with elongation of the rete ridges and parakeratosis, can be found also in chronic eczematous dermatitis, such as atopic dermatitis, nummular dermatitis, or allergic contact dermatitis, which then may appear to be "psoriasiform." However, the elongation of rete ridges is uneven. Although mild spongiosis can be seen adjacent to treated lesions of psoriasis and in those with superimposed allergic contact dermatitis secondary to topical treatments.

Lichen simplex chronicus is considered in the differential diagnosis of fully developed psoriatic plaques. In contrast to psoriasis, it shows a more indurated appearance, with hyperkeratosis, orthokeratosis, acanthosis, and fibrosis of the papillary dermis with collagen bundles aligned perpendicular to the skin surface.

Seborrheic dermatitis may be very difficult to distinguish from psoriasis vulgaris, especially if overlap occurs. Accentuated spongiosis, accentuated parakeratosis at the follicular ostia, and more irregular acanthosis are histologic features suggestive of seborrheic dermatitis.

Pityriasis rubra pilaris shares some histologic features with psoriasis, namely, acanthosis and parakeratosis. However, it could be differentiated by the presence of more pronounced orthokeratosis, hyperkeratosis, and increased dermal fibrosis. Although the Kogoj spongiform pustule is highly diagnostic of the psoriasis group of diseases,
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including Reiter’s disease, histologically typical spongiform pustules may occur also in pustular dermatophytosis, bacterial impetigo, pustular drug eruptions, and candidiasis, particularly if pustules are clinically present. Periodic acid-Schiff (PAS) and Gram stains are useful for identifying the causative organism.
Because of the clinical and, particularly, the histologic resemblance of the tongue lesions in pustular psoriasis...