

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Severe Skin Pain Following PUVA

Dear Sir,

We were very interested to read Dr Tegner's recent report (1) of an unusual painful side effect associated with PUVA treatment. We have had three patients undergoing PUVA for psoriasis vulgaris whose symptoms closely resemble those of Dr Tegner's patients.

All three patients described this unpleasant sensation as a "deep itch with a marked burning character". It came on after three, six and eight weeks' treatment respectively and only after the psoriasis had shown a marked improvement.

In two of the three, the symptoms were paroxysmal but not obviously precipitated by any particular action. Although generalized, the pain tended to be worse on the buttocks in each case.

One patient stopped PUVA but the symptoms, which caused great discomfort, have persisted although not so severely, for six months. No im-

provement occurred with antihistamines, indomethacin, aspirin and topical steroids, and only a minimal response was obtained with a course of prednisolone 60 mg daily. The other two have continued with PUVA and the symptoms have subsided a little but this improvement was not directly related to any reduction in the number of weekly treatments.

The clinical details are so similar to those of Dr Tegner's patients that it suggests this side effect to be a specific entity whose aetiology is as yet unknown.

REFERENCE

1. Tegner, E.: Severe Skin Pain after PUVA Treatment. *Acta Dermatovener (Stockholm)* 59: 467-470, 1979.

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BOOK RECEIVED

Dermatology: Proceedings of the XV International Congress of Dermatology, Mexico, 16-21 October 1977. *Editors*: Antonio Gonzalez-Ochoa, Luciano

Dominguez-Soto, Yolanda Ortiz. 860 pages. Excerpta Medica, Amsterdam-Oxford-Princeton, 1979. \$ 131.75.