

Letter to the Editor

Antibodies with Affinity to the Cytoplasm of Keratinocytes. Importance of the Substrates Used for Their Detection

With regard to the interesting paper by Vedtofte et al. (*Acta Dermatovener (Stockholm)* 58: 51-55, 1978) we would make the following comments. Antibodies reacting with the basal cell layer of malpighian epithelia have been detected in the serum of 6 patients; the titres were said to vary between 1/8 and 1/128, but no details on the titre of each serum were given. An interesting finding was the differing reactivity between skin and "mucosa"; the sera were found to react with the guinea pig lip and human mucosa, whereas human skin did not. No details were given, however, on the type of differentiation of the specimens used. In fact in a guinea pig lip section one may find areas of parakeratosis and of mucosa in the same specimen. We have demonstrated (1) that cytoplasmic antibodies react with molecules involved in kera-

tinocyte differentiation; these components are not identical in orthokeratosis, parakeratosis and mucosa. It would be interesting to know whether the substrate used in the study by Vedtofte et al. showed parakeratinized and/or mucosal differentiation.

We suggest that this point should be considered in any further study dealing with antibodies with affinity to the cytoplasm of keratinocytes.

REFERENCE

1. Saurat, J. H., Didierjean, L. & Gluckman, E.: Immunofluorescent tracing of cytoplasmic components involved in keratinocyte differentiation. *Br J Dermatol* 98: 155, 1978.

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