

# *Infantile psoriasis*

## *A short clinical study*

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### S U M M A R Y

Psoriasis is a lifelong disease. The signs are exacerbating and waning without any apparent reason. Infants with psoriasis have high incidence of the disease at 5-13 years of age, but it is also possible that they will be free of symptoms during their entire life. In the treatment a conservative approach is advocated, there are few cases where retinoids are needed. It is important for the parents to be familiar with the nature and management of the disease. We hope that gene therapy will play a positive role in the treatment in near future.

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### *Introduction*

Psoriasis is a chronic disease with accelerated epidermal turnover and epidermal hyperplasia. It has a prevalence of 1-3 % in the general population, but represents 4.1% of all dermatoses encountered in children younger than 16 years of age (1,2). In about 2-6 % of all psoriasis cases, the first signs appear before the age of two years (3,4).

The pathogenesis of the disease is multifactorial: multiple genetic and environmental factors play a role in infantile psoriasis. The data on the HLA antigens predisposing to psoriasis are somewhat conflicting: HLA B-13, B-17, B-27, Bw 57, Cw 2, Cw6 and DR-7 (5,6,7). The triggering factor in infantile psoriasis is usually an infection. Associated diarrhoea, along with the urine in

the napkin dermatitis may also contribute to the development of the disease. Infections also play a major role in exacerbating the disease (7). The importance of family history in psoriasis has been stressed years ago (1,7). Interestingly, 60 % of our patients as observed last year had a previous infection.

Children suffering from psoriasis have higher serum total IgE than the normal population (5). Atopic dermatitis and psoriasis often occur together, but the reports on their concordance are contradictory (8, 9).

### *Clinical manifestations*

**Napkin psoriasis** is the most frequent form of psoriasis in infants. Last year 80% of our patients suffering

### K E Y W O R D S

psoriasis,  
infantile,  
napkin  
psoriasis,  
erythrodermic,  
pustular

