

# Puzzling Cases in Dermatology



Dieter Metze

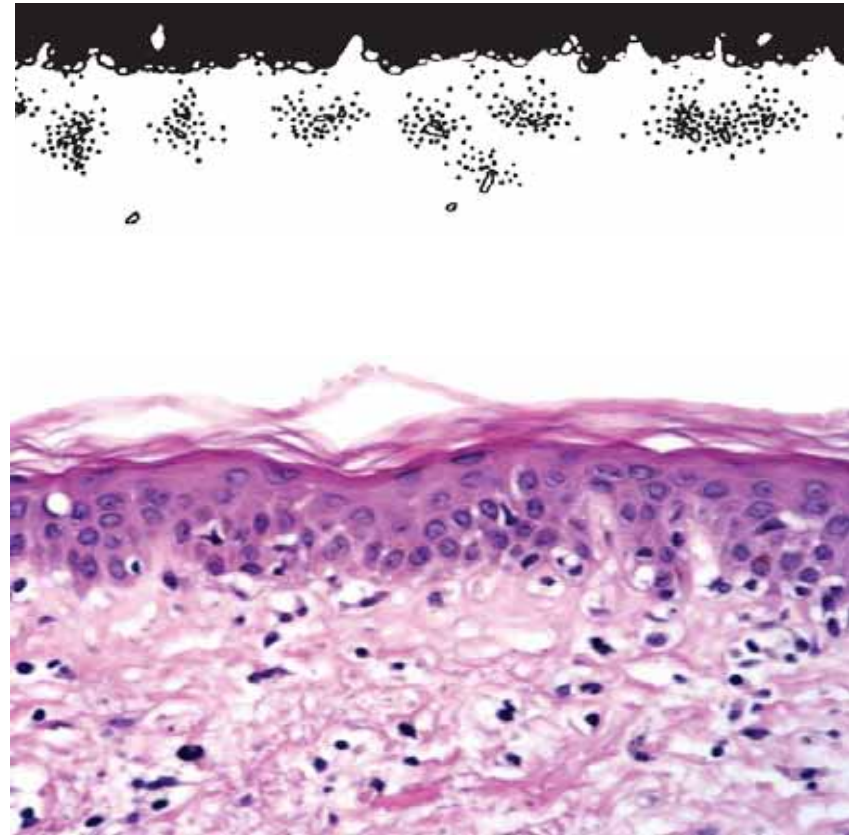


Klinik für Hautkrankheiten, Universitätsklinikum Münster (UKM)  
*Internationales Ausbildungszentrum für Dermatopathologie der ICDP und UEMS*



# Histological puzzle

*Analysis – “blinded fashion”*

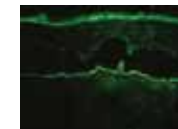
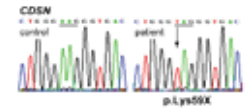
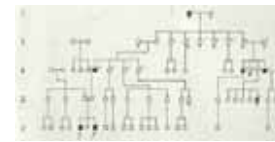


Recognize the patterns and criteria,  
conclude on the diagnosis

# Clinical puzzle



Final Diagnosis is made by the clinician

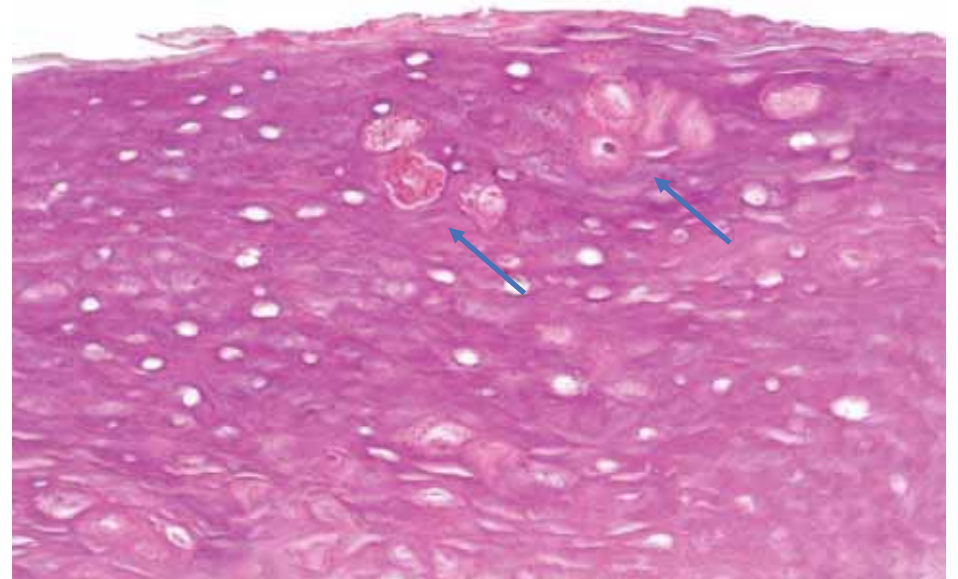
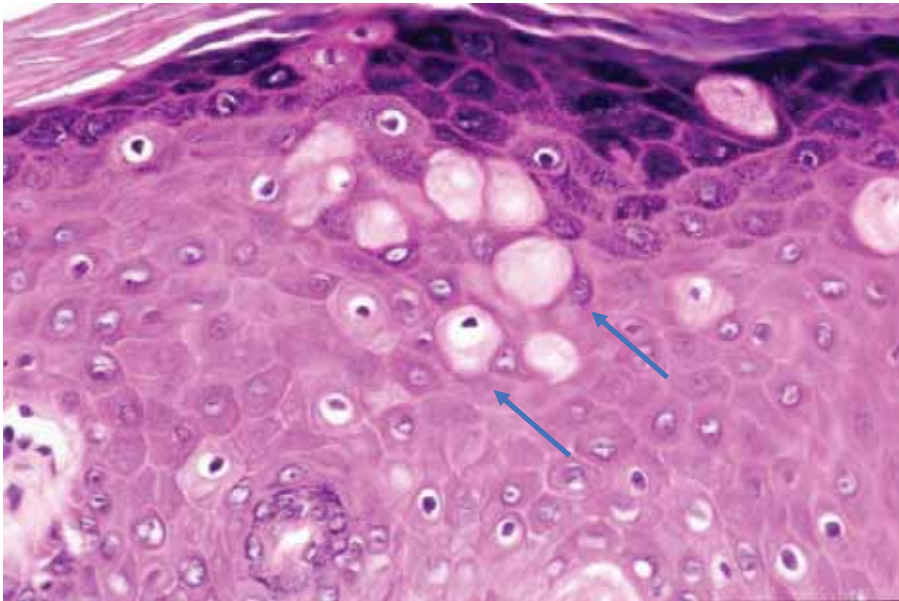
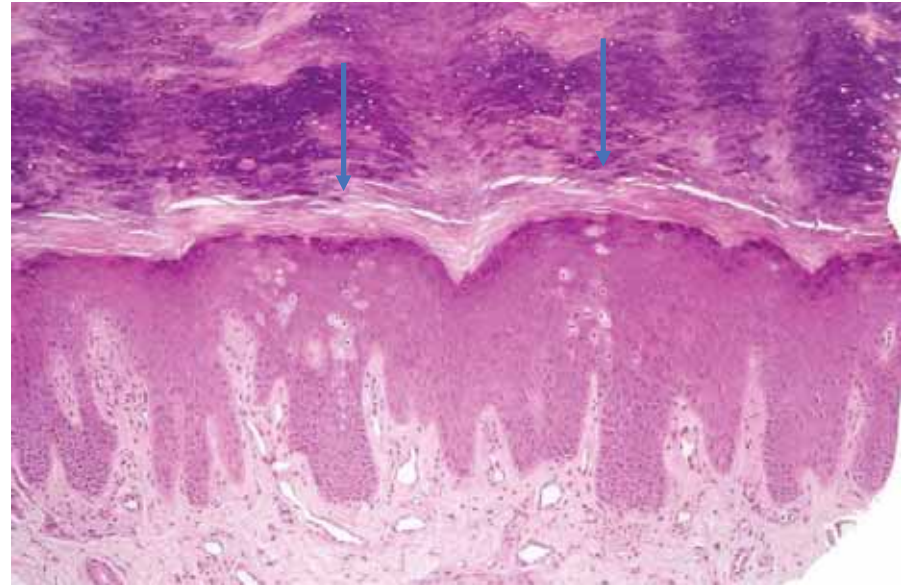
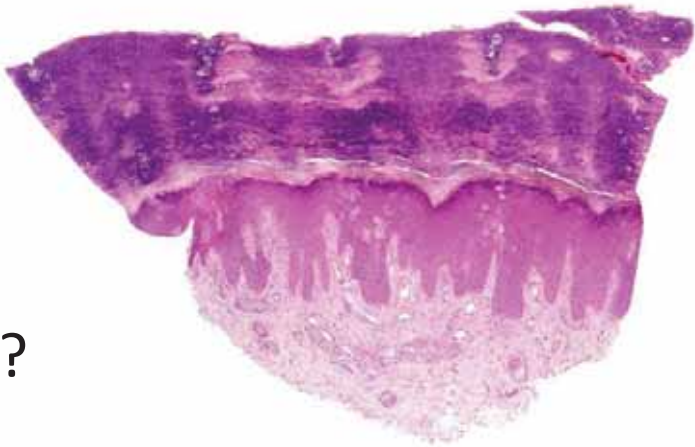


H. Kutzner, A. Rütten, Nineties

Macular Hyperpigmentation on the finger tips, digitus V, female  
rule out Melanoma



???



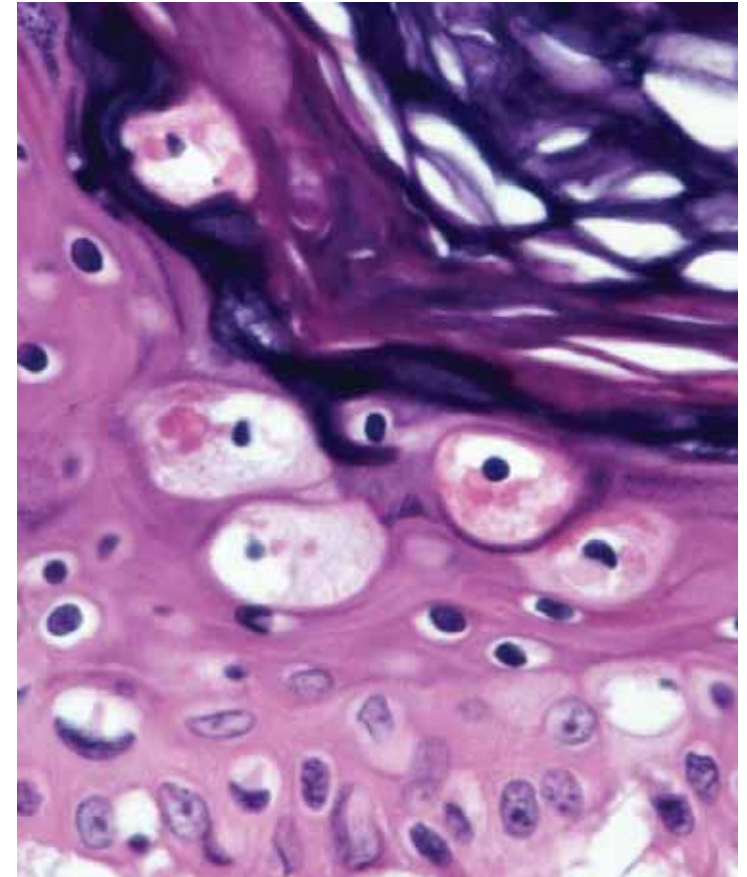


# Pagetoid Dyskeratosis

Incidental histologic finding of no clinical relevance due to friction and maceration

- Large body folds
- Exophytic skin tumors
- Mucous membranes
- Wound dressing
- Volar skin

*DDx Toker cells, clear cell papulosis, Paget's disease (Cytology, IHC)*

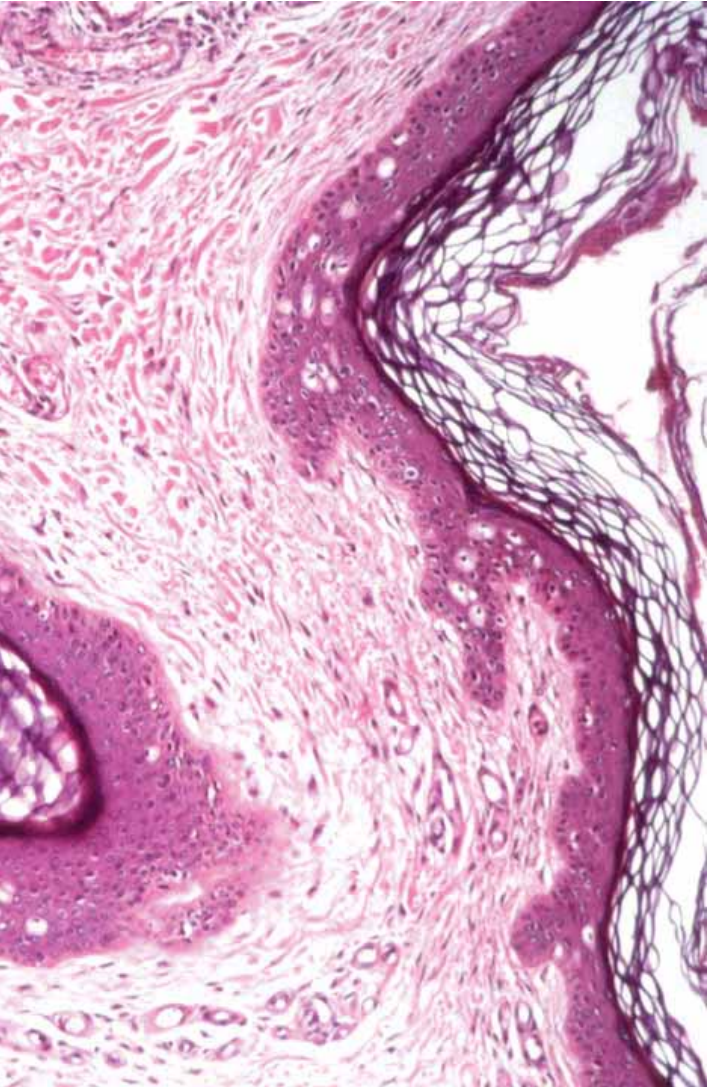


Pyknotic nucleus, clear halo, rim of stippled cytoplasm, eosinophilic granules

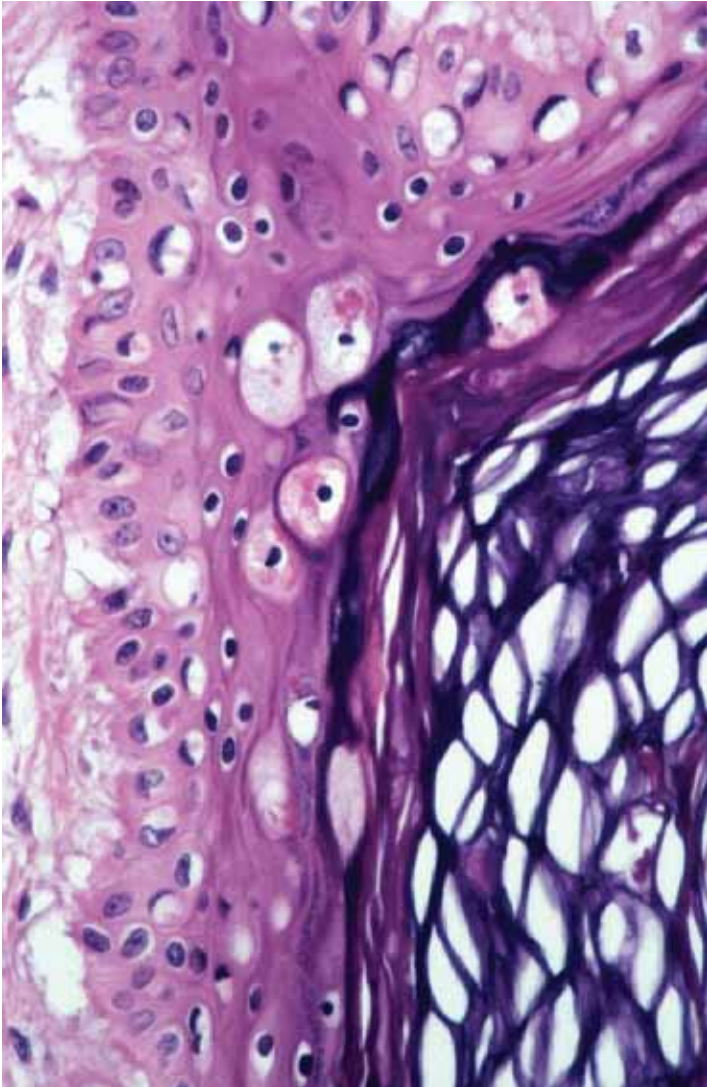
*Mehregan, 1980, Tschen, 1988*



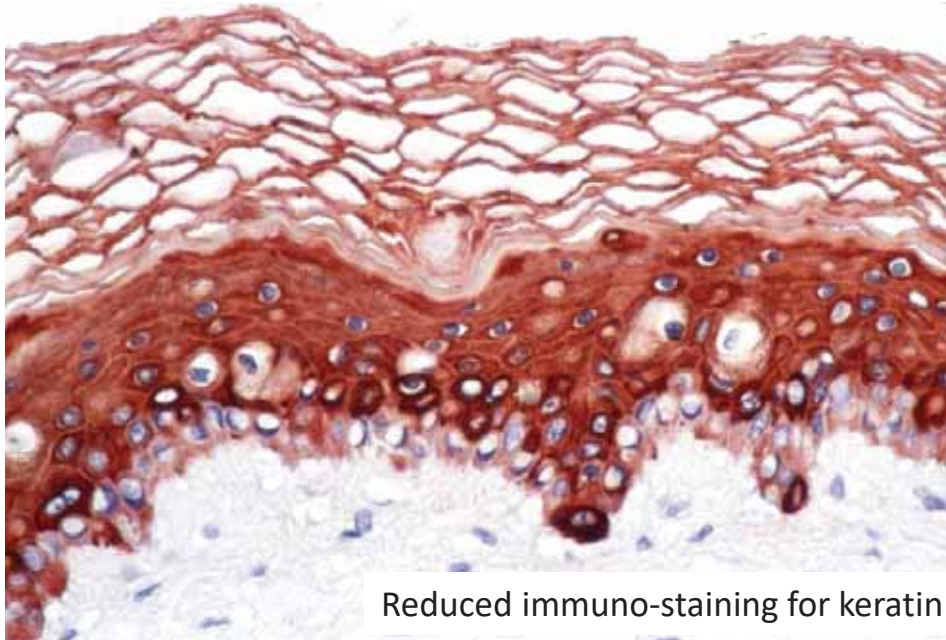
Fibroma



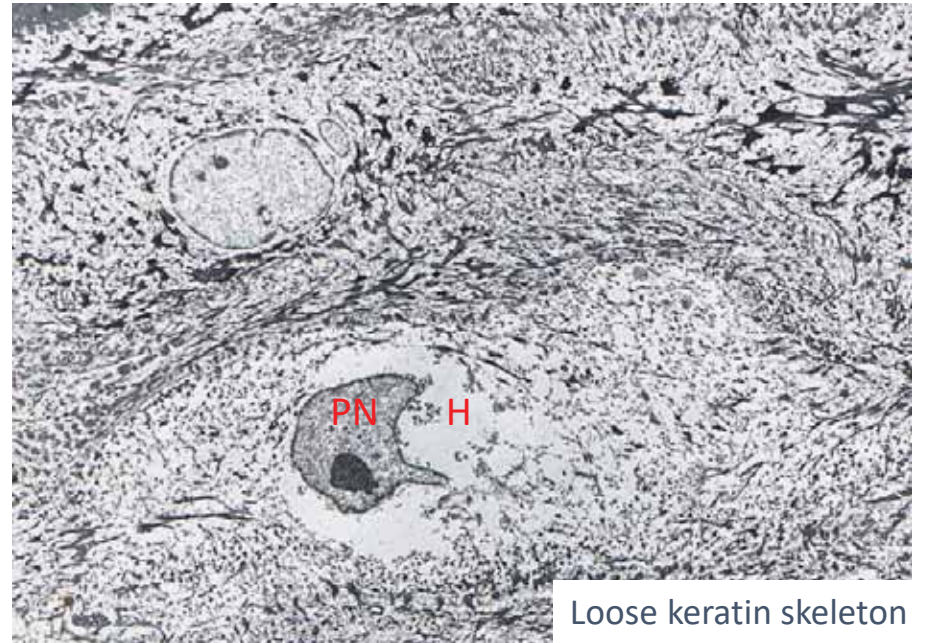
Large, pale cells



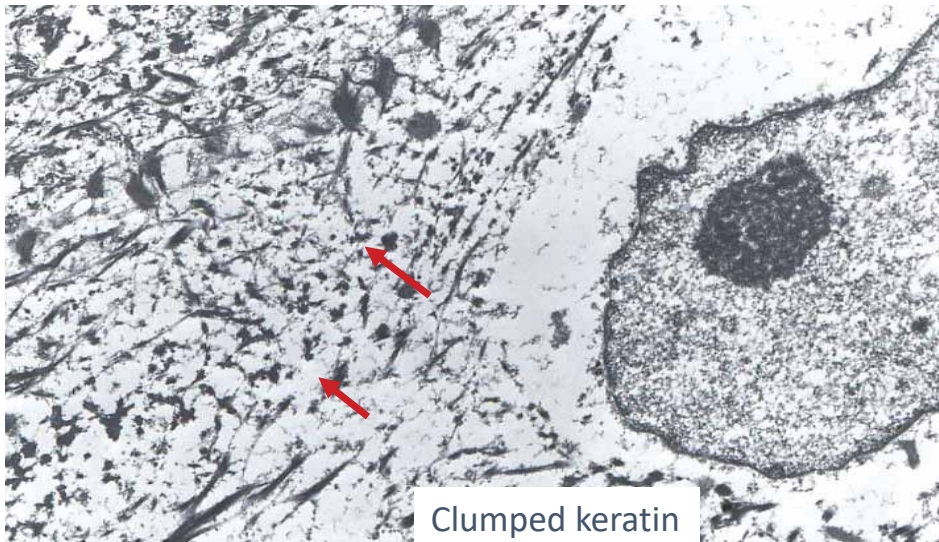




Reduced immuno-staining for keratin



Loose keratin skeleton

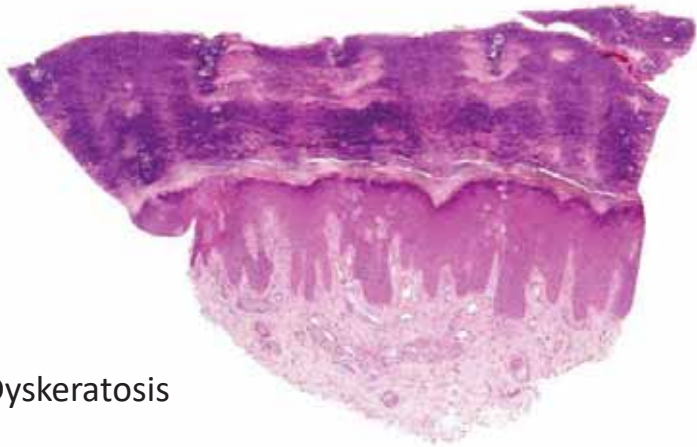


Clumped keratin

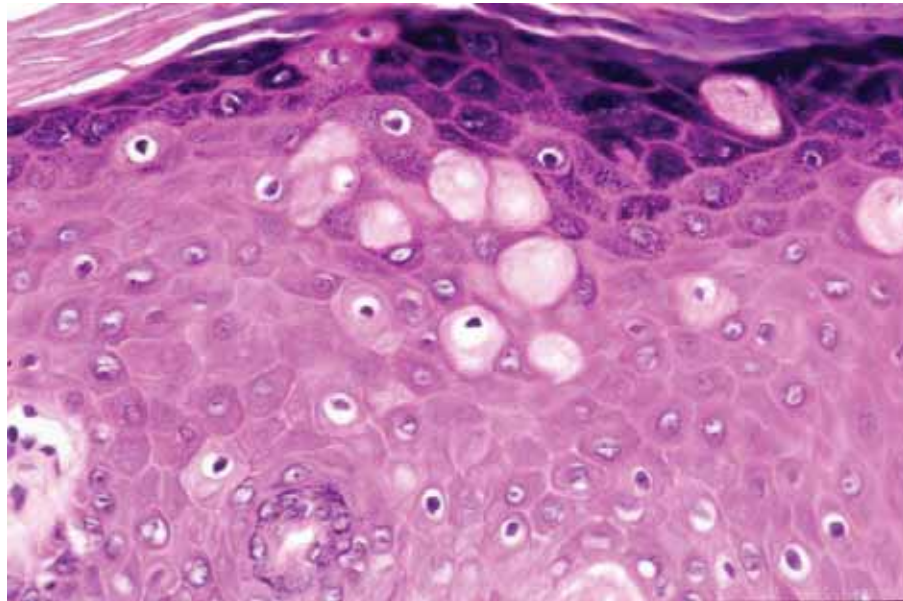
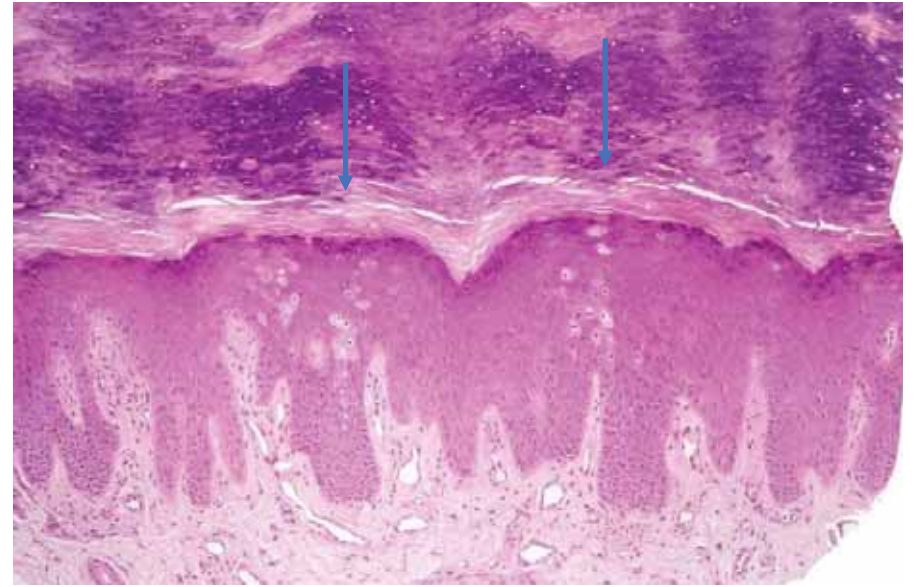


Keratin aggregates

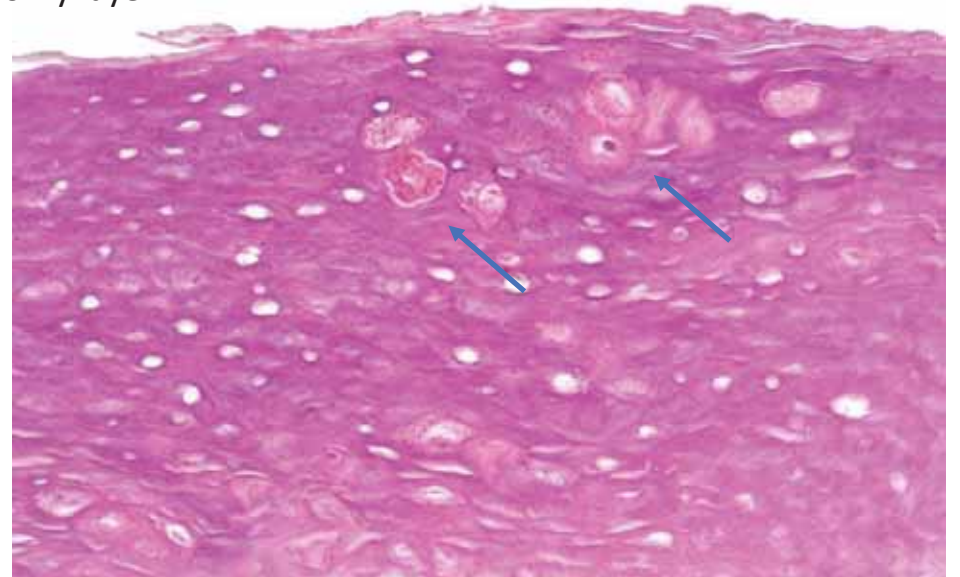
Pagetoid Dyskeratosis



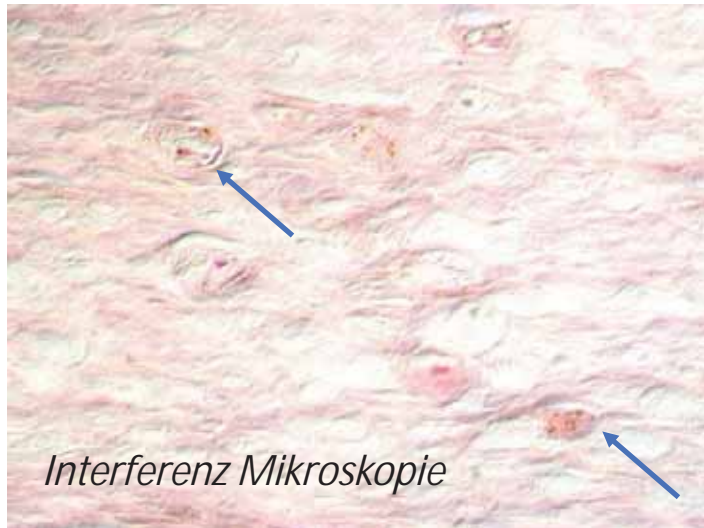
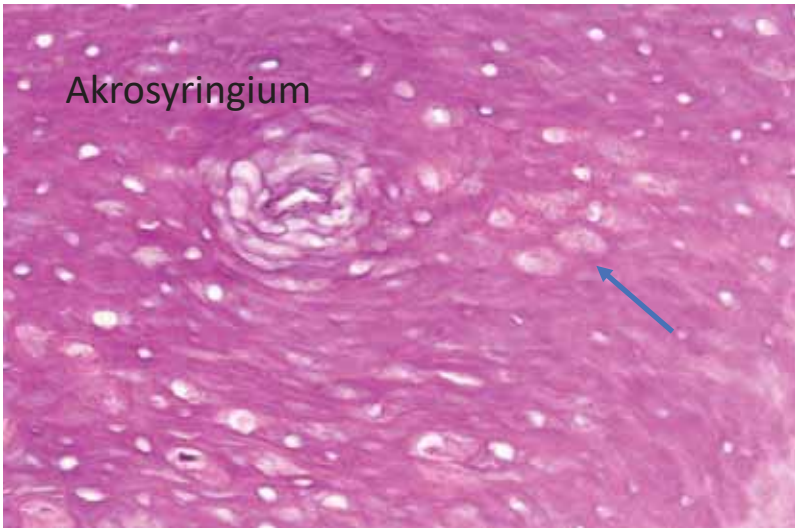
Columnar distribution along ridges



and horny layer



*Immunohistochemistry:* CK7, EMA, melanocytic markers negativ

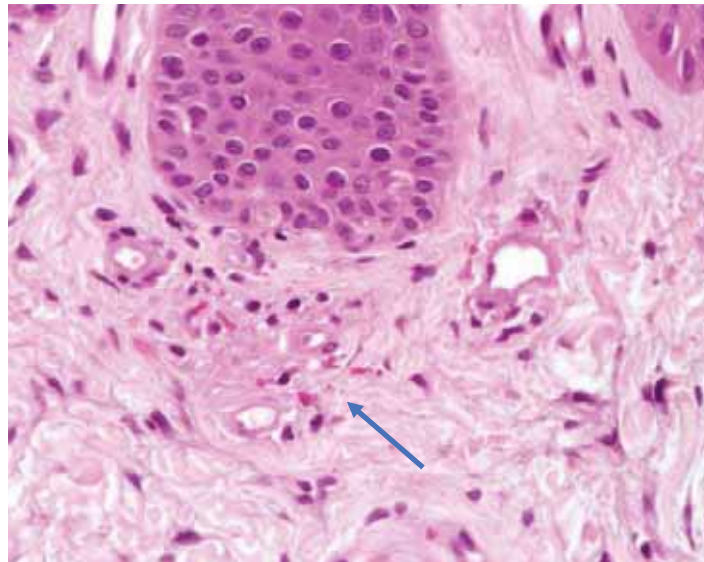
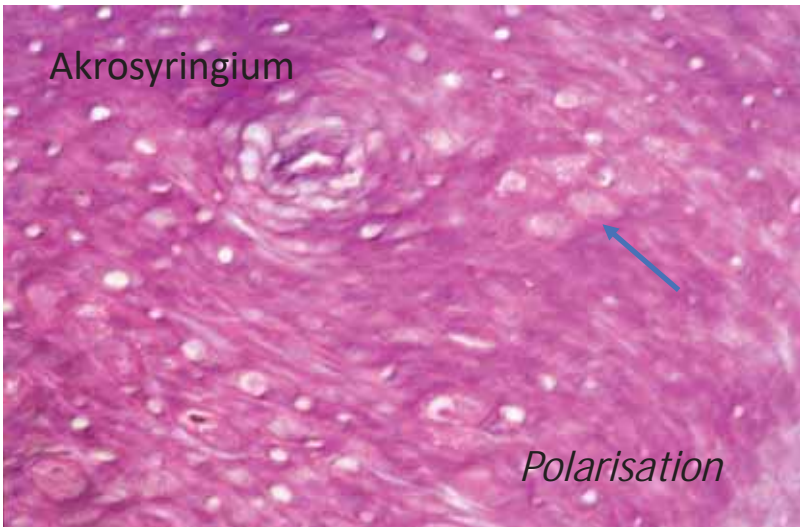


*Pagetoid Dyskeratosis with  
yellowish-brownish granules*

Melanin stain negativ

Refraktile

Perls Prussian blue stain negativ  
-> no Hemosiderin

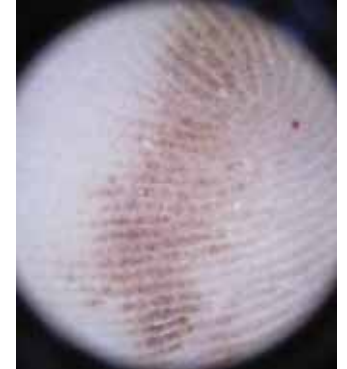


Benzidine blue stain positiv  
-> Hämatoidin

Extravasated erythrozytes

# Pagetoid Dyskeratosis of the Hands

- Predominantly women, middle-aged
- Circumscribed orange-brown hyperpigmentation on the palms or fingertips
- Dermatoscopy: ridged pattern, DDX Melanoma
- Mechanical irritation (Working with brooms, ....)
- Resolution after pausing
- Histological DDX Toxic Dermatitis, Acrodermatitis enteropathica

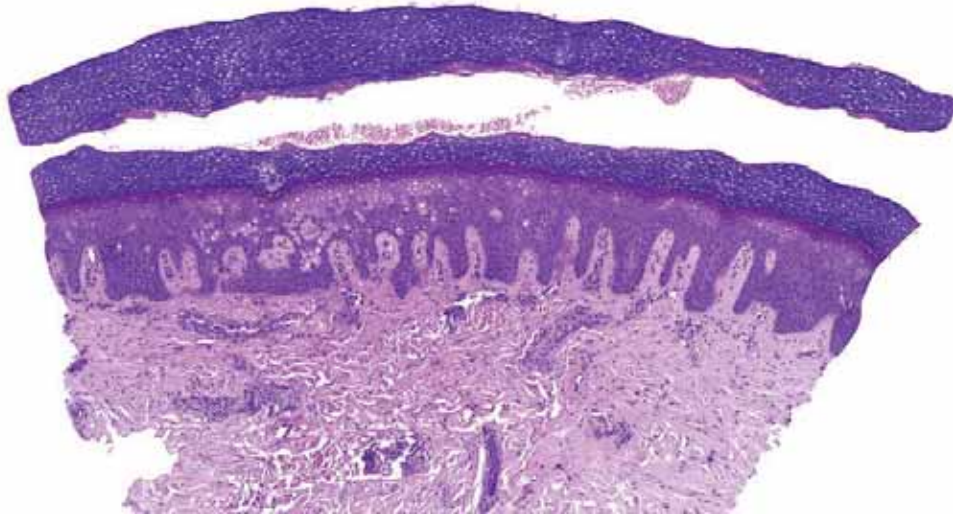


Loidi et al, Actas Dermosifiliogr., 2014

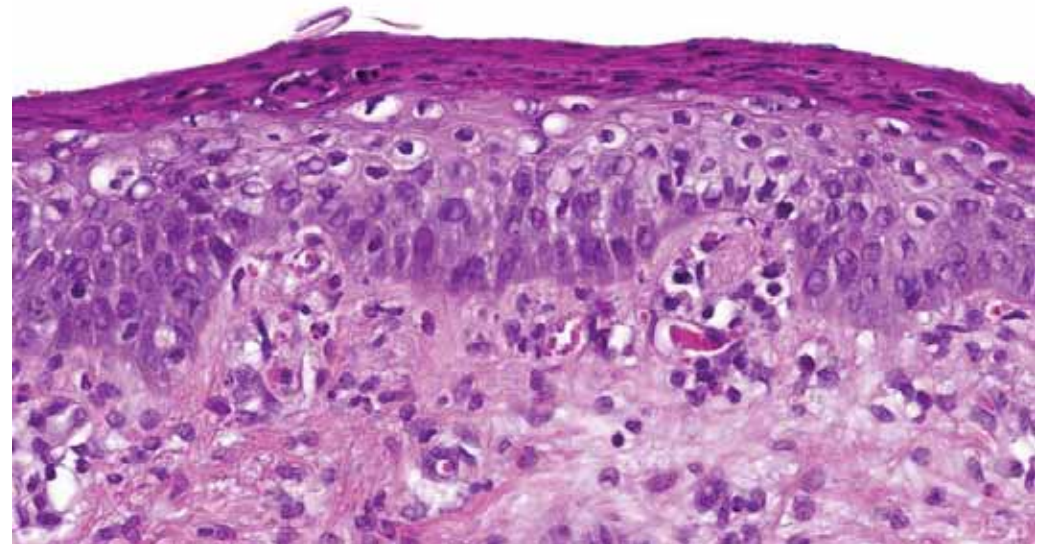
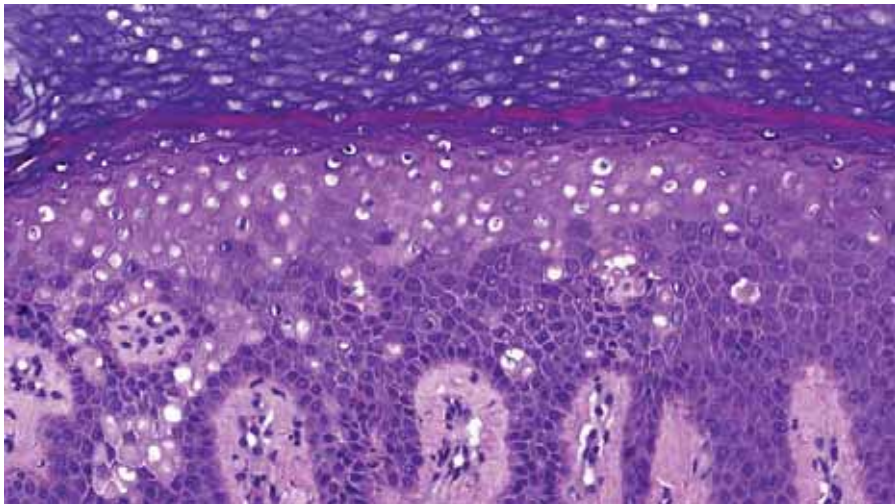
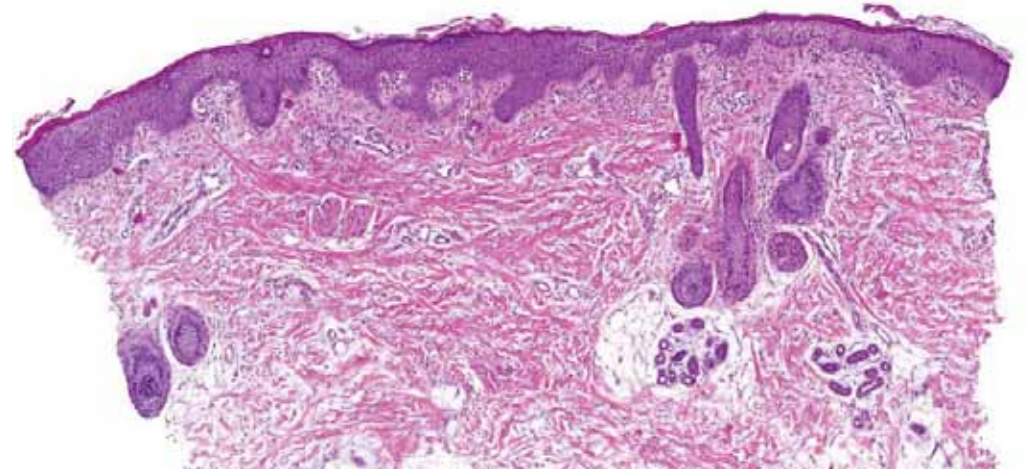
Aetiopathogenesis  
of pigment not mentioned

Wang et al, JAAD, 2004  
Tojonaga et al, JAMA 2013

Toxische Dermatitis



Akrodermatitis enteropathika





Young woman, shortly after immersion in water or sweating, whitish thickening with a "pebbly" surface



???



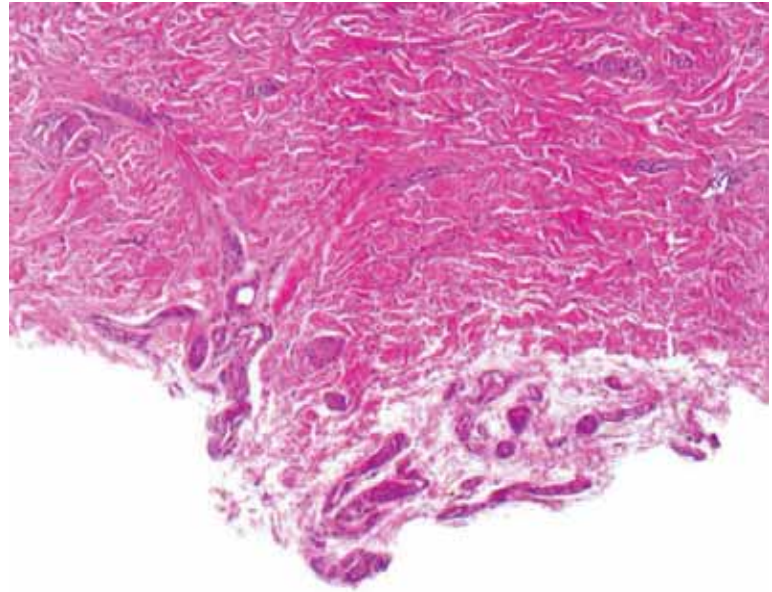
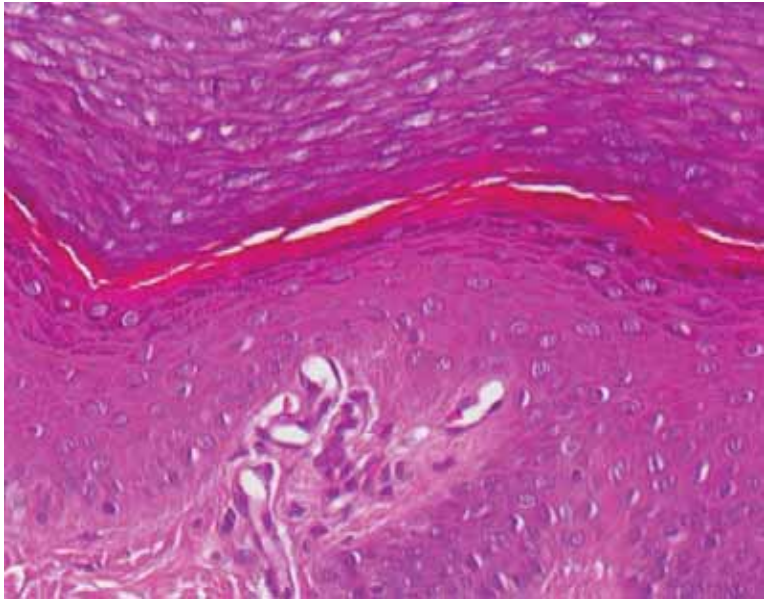
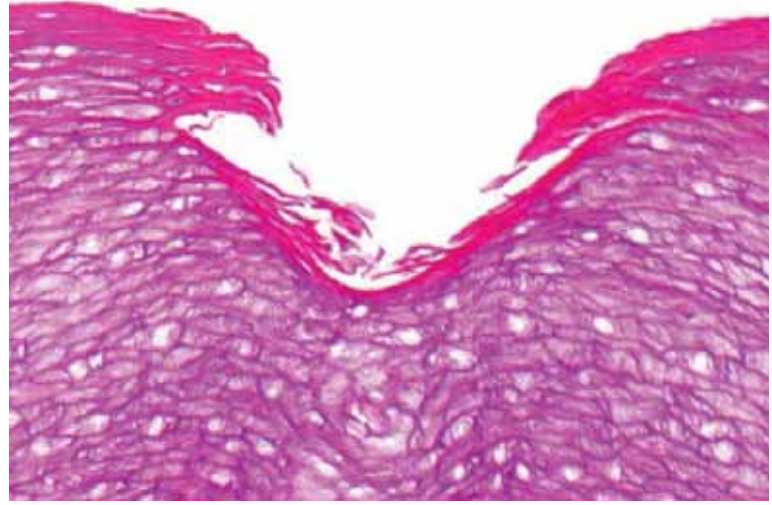
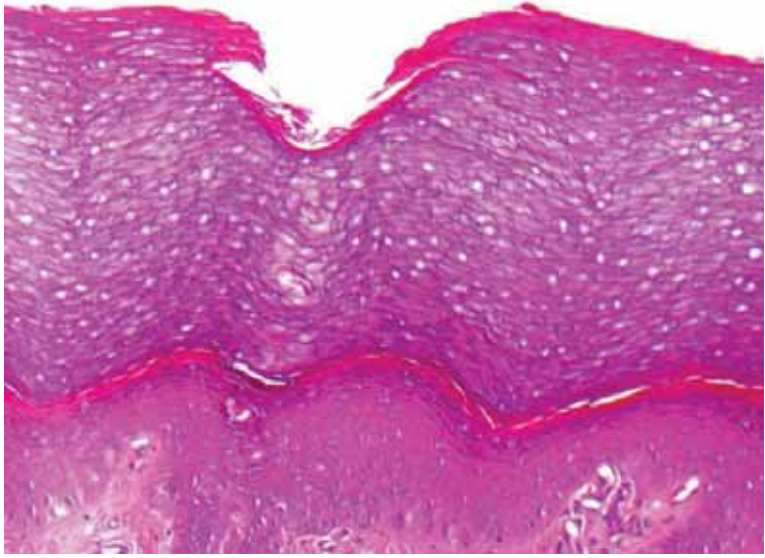




Dilated pores of acrosyringium after contact with water



Mild orthohyperkeratosis (?),  
hyperplasia of eccrine sweat glands (?)



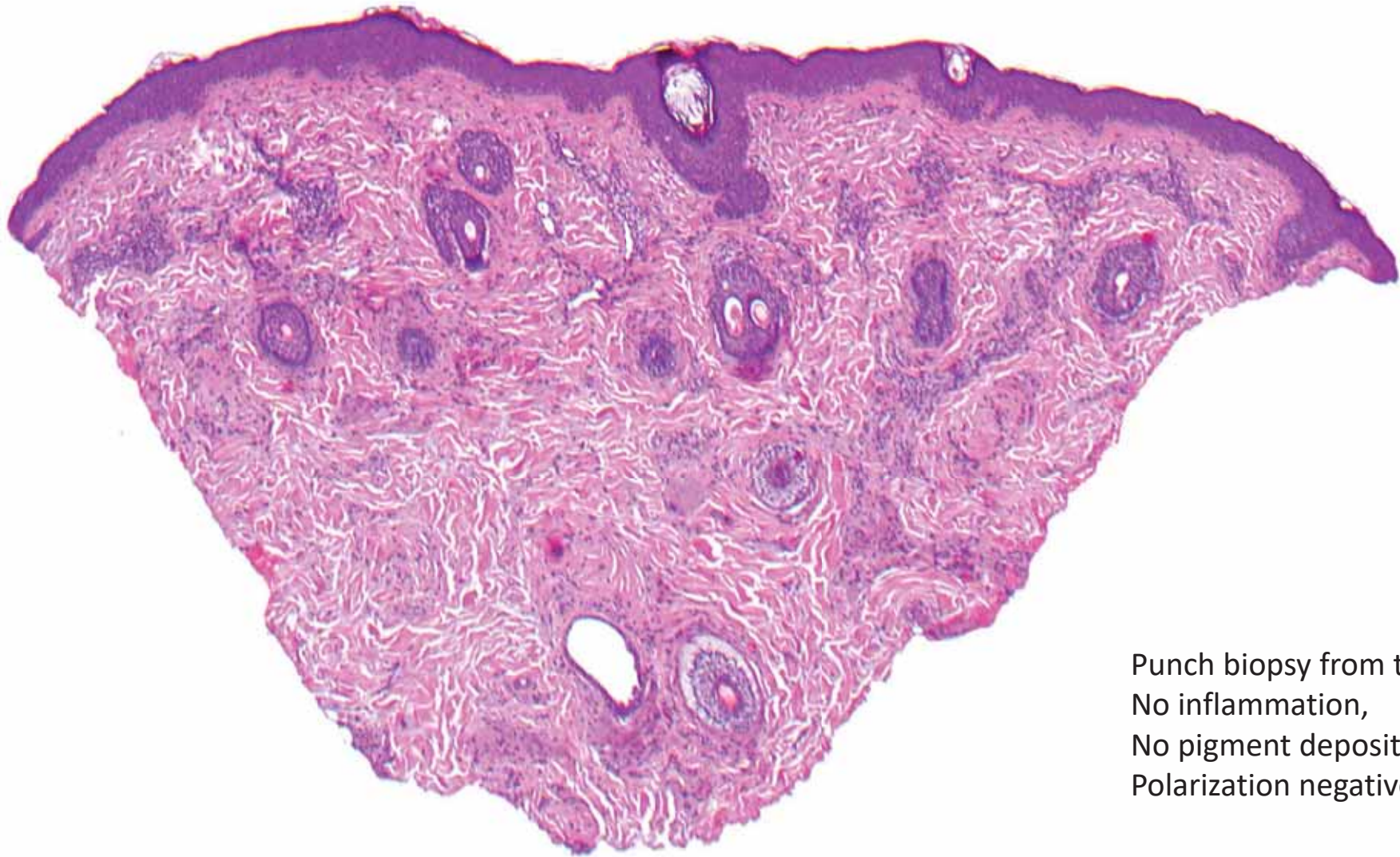
# Transient aquagenic Keratodermie

- Acquired (Cox-2 inhibitor), inherited (AR, AD)
- Manifestation in the second decade of life, mainly women
- Mild keratoderma in the center of the palms
- Shortly after immersion in water or sweating, whitish thickening with a "pebbly" surface, enlarged acrosyringal ostia (dermoscopy)
- Painful, burning or itching sensations
- Reversible after drying
- Therapy: as for hyperhidrosis
- DDx Aquagenic wrinkling of the palms in cystic fibrosis (including carriers), NEPPK type Bothnia (aquaporin), hereditary papulotranslucent acrokeratoderma (PPK punctata), acral peeling syndrome (TG5), exfoliative ichthyosis (cystatin), .....

## CASE

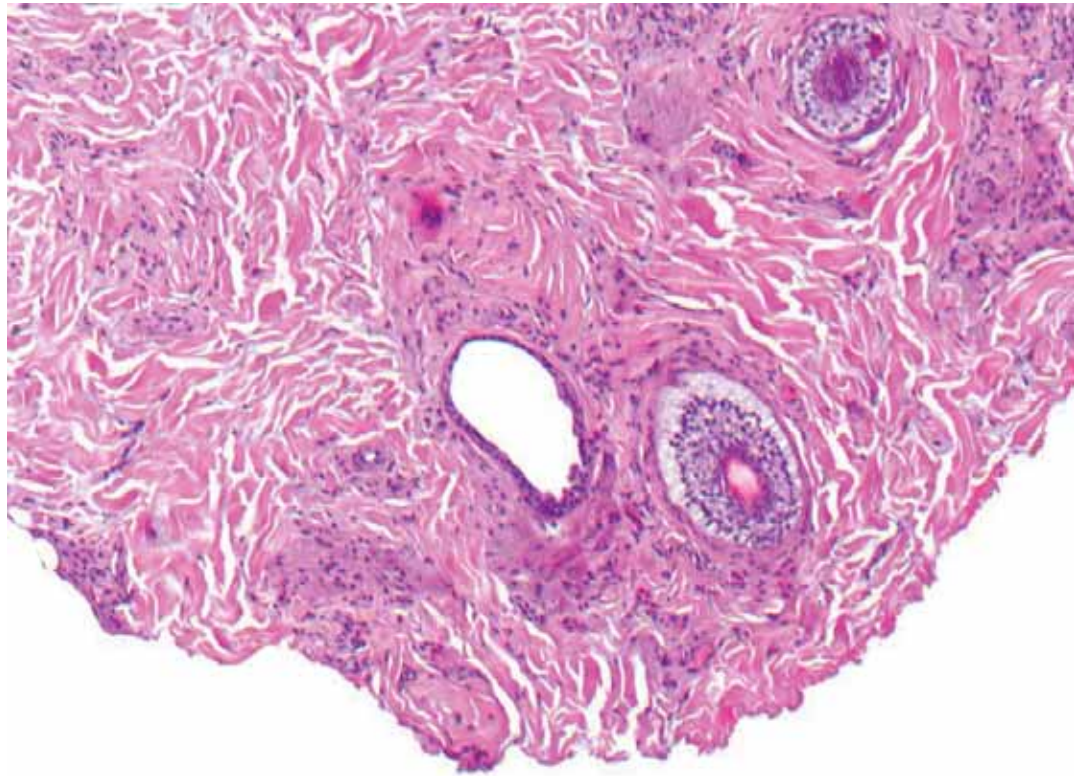
- 31-year-old man
- Since 11 years, discharge of bluish-brownish secretions from both cheeks several times a day, especially after sporting activity
- Colored secretion can be expressed on pressure. The secretion dries up on the skin surface and leaves behind punctiform, brownish-black macules.
- A nasal septum piercing in 2011
- No restrictions of the general condition
- Other integument unremarkable



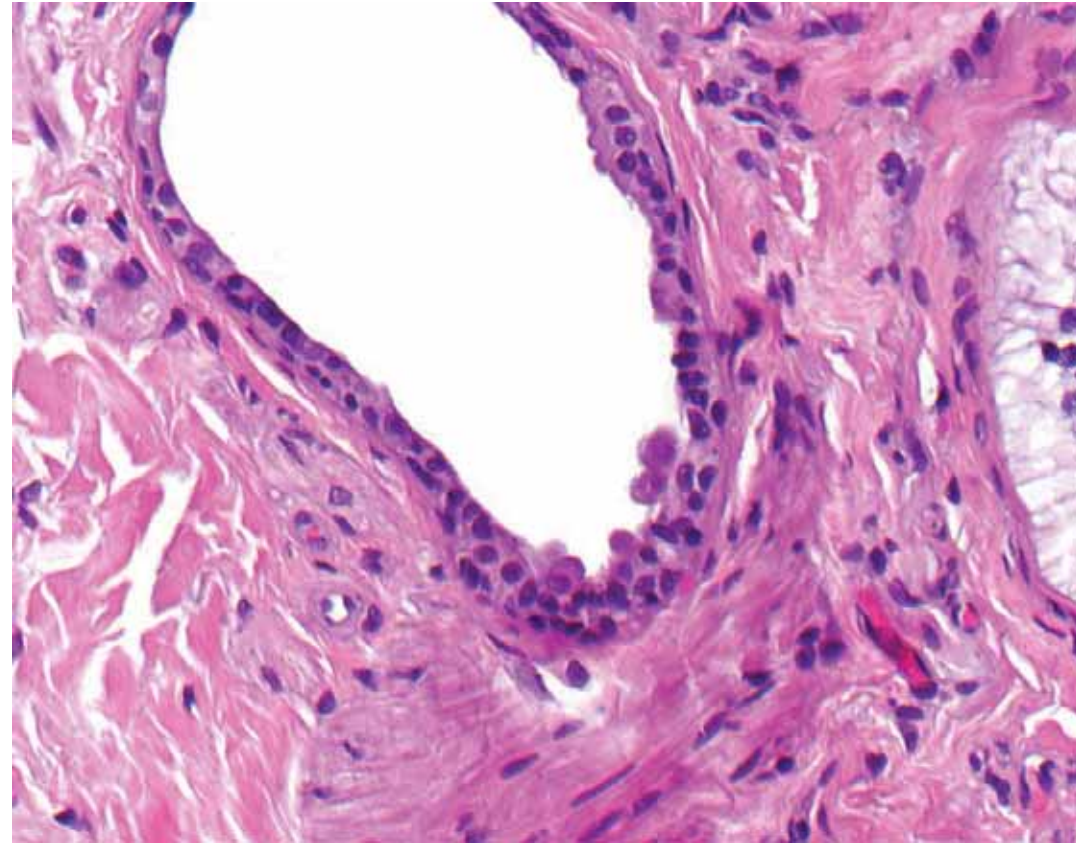


Punch biopsy from the cheek  
No inflammation,  
No pigment deposits  
Polarization negative





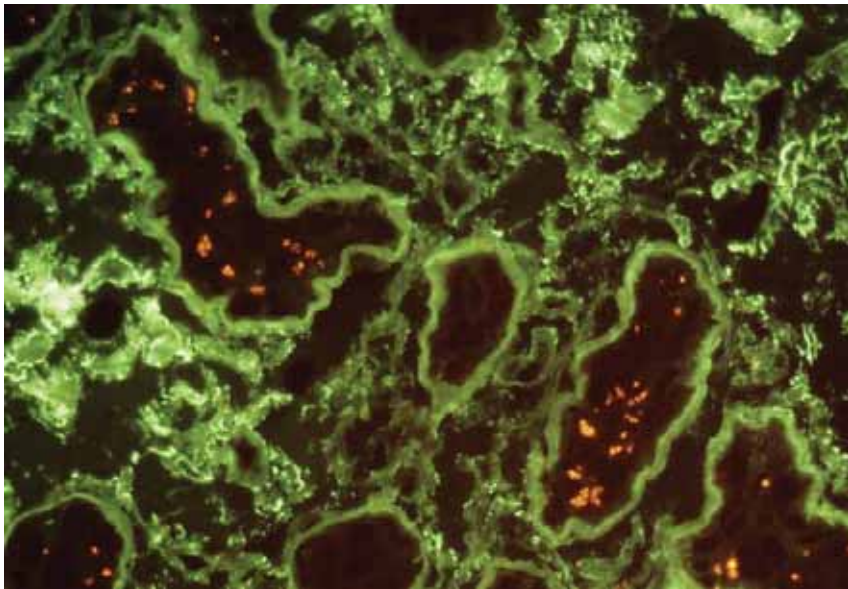
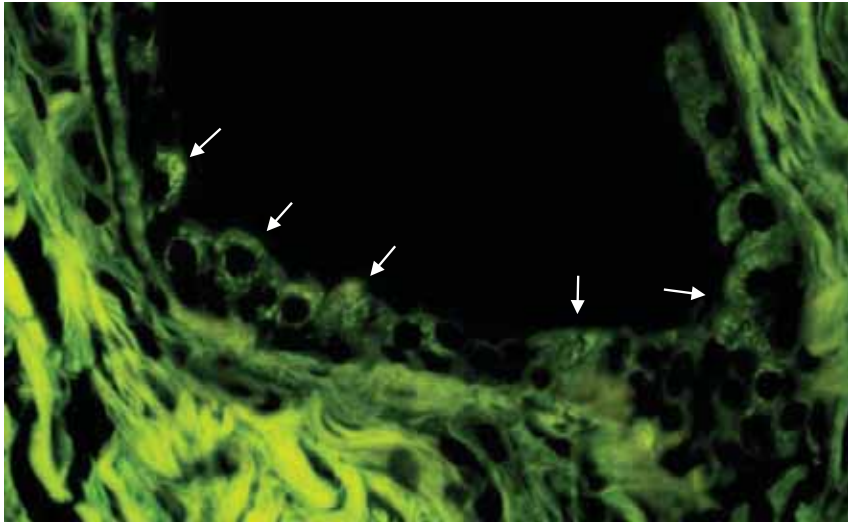
Apocrine glands



# Chromhidrosis - 3 Subtypes

- *Apocrine chromohidrosis:*  
After puberty  
Genitoanal region, axilla, areolae > face  
Secretion of pigmented sweat: yellow, blue, green, blue-black
- *Eccrine chromhidrosis (systemic cause):*  
Exogenous: Medication intake, food, metals  
Endogenous: Hyperbilirubinemia in liver diseases, bilirubin oxidized -> biliverdin
- *Pseudo-eccrine chromohidrosis:*  
Colorless sweat is colored by reaction with exogenous substances such as bacteria, dyes or chemicals





## Apocrine Chromhidrosis - Pathophysiology

- Apocrine glands
- Lipofuscin granules in the secretory cells (PAS-positive, fluorescent at 360-395 nm): Different accumulation and oxidation levels cause the different colors of sweat - yellow, green, blue, ...
- Additionally, tyrosine-, melanin-, hemoglobin-degradation possible

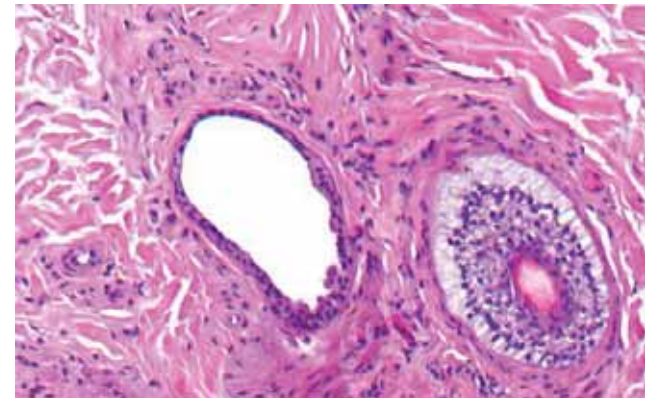
Apocrine Chromhidrosis. Schwarz, T et al. Hautarzt. 1989

Chromhidrosis: a rare diagnosis requiring clinicopathologic correlation. Wang, A. et al. Am J Dermatopathol. 2014.

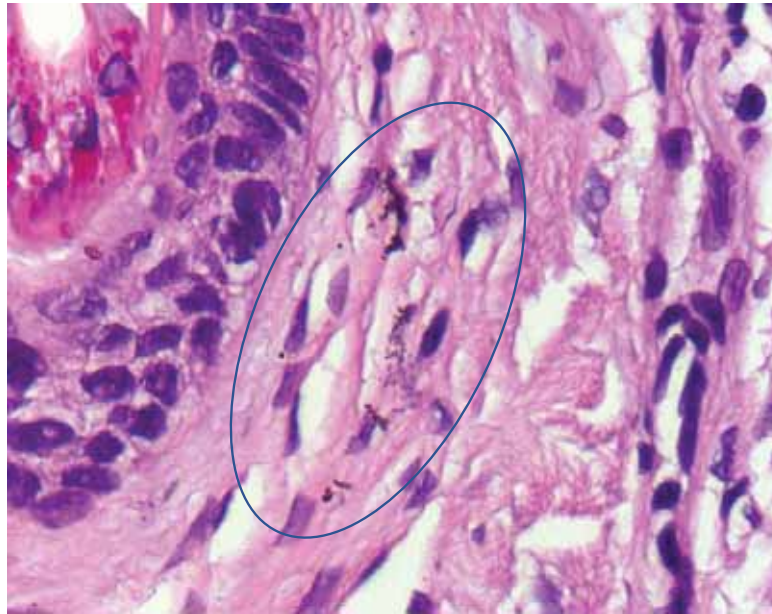
Facial an axillary apocrine chromhidrosis. Tato, BP et al. Dermatol Online J. 2012

# Chromhidrosis faciei

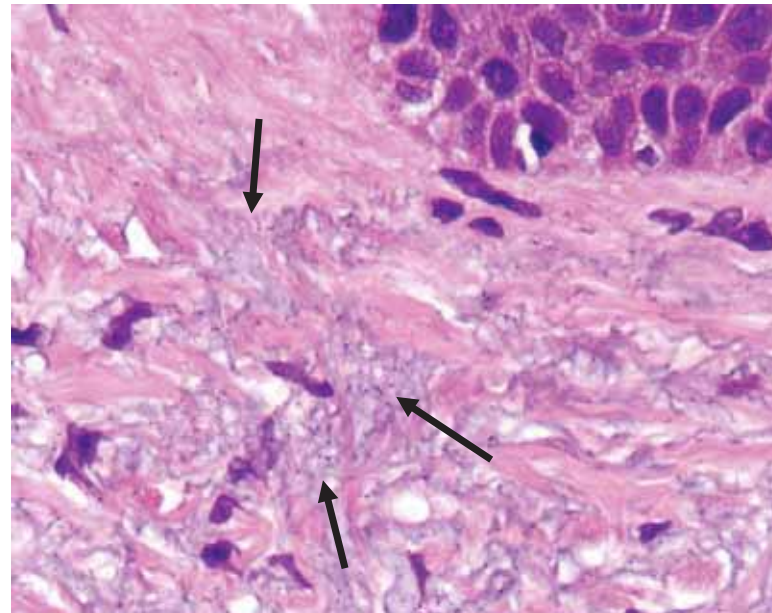
- Rare, chronic, idiopathic disease
- Onset after puberty
- Punctiform secretion of pigmented / colored sweat on the cheeks
- Ectopic apocrine glands
- Accumulation and oxidation of lipofuscin granules
- Therapy: Aluminum chloride, Capsaicin, Botulinum toxin



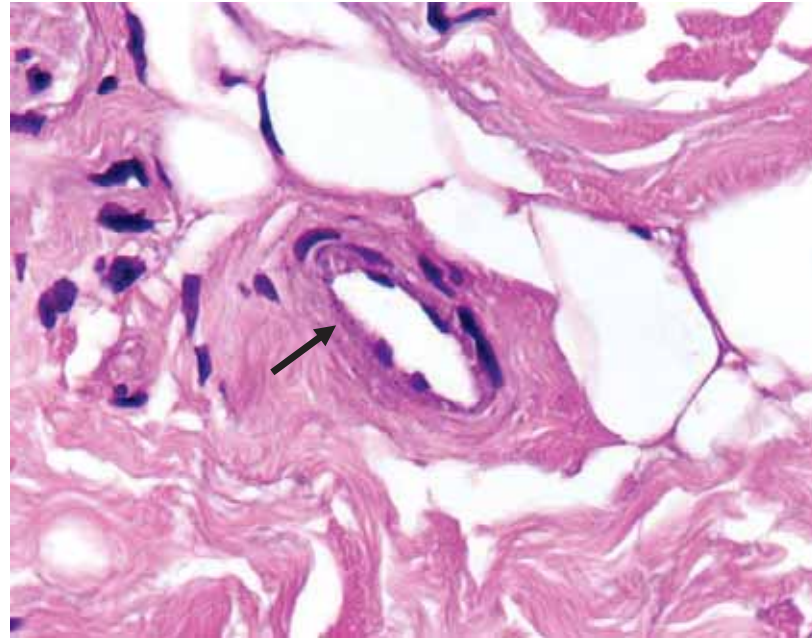
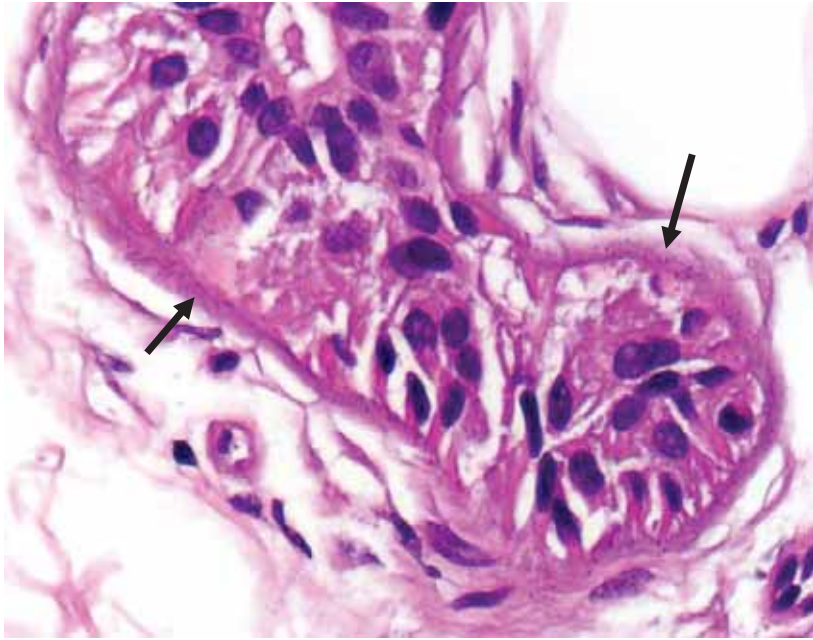
## DDx Argyrosis



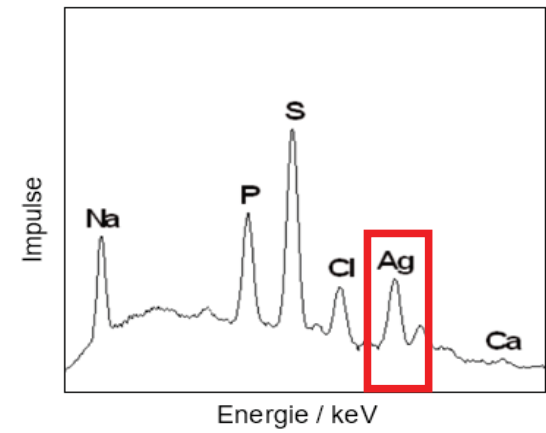
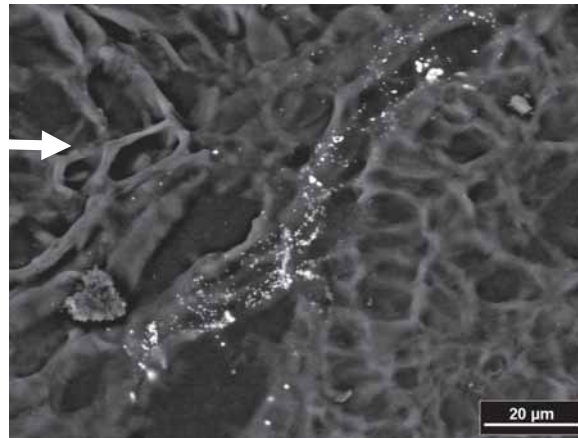
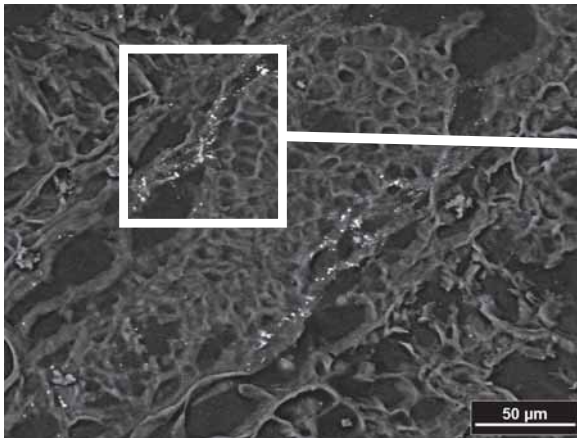
Silber particles along the adnexae



Silber particles associated with solar elastosis



Electron dense particles along the BM of sweat glands and vessels



**EDX Analysis of the particles**



## CASE

25-y-old man

Papules on the cheeks and bridge of the nose

Since age of 12

No itching or pain

Allergic asthma and rhinoconjunctivitis

No medication



Cobblestone-like skin relief  
Aggregated, skin-colored, flat,  
polygonal papules  
No signs of solar elastosis



DDx

Syringoma

Trichoepithelioma

Zysts, Milia

Angiofibroma

Sarkoidosis

Lymphoma

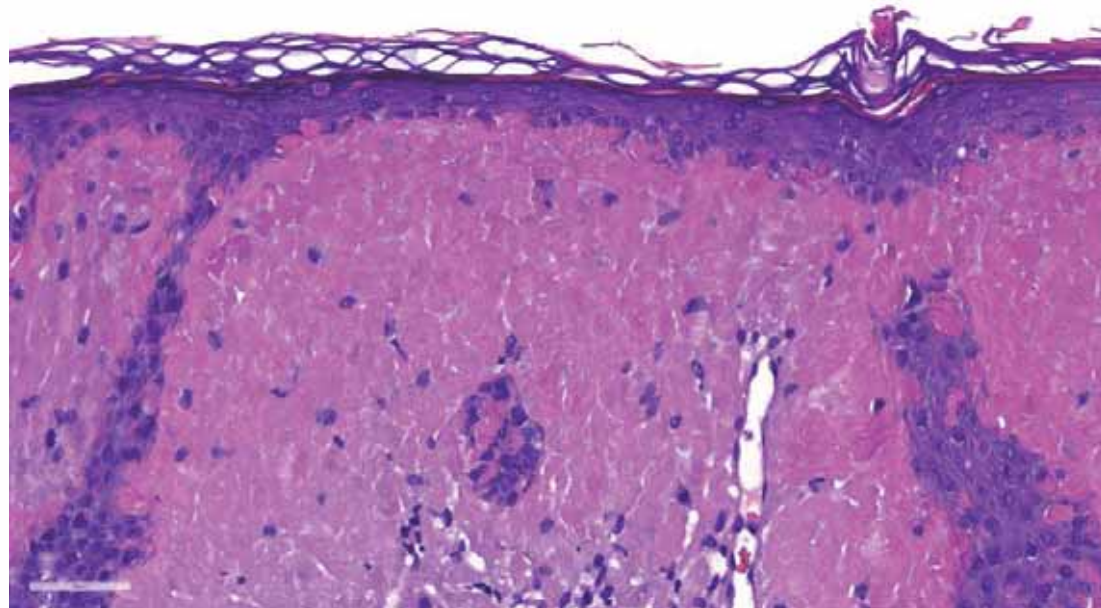
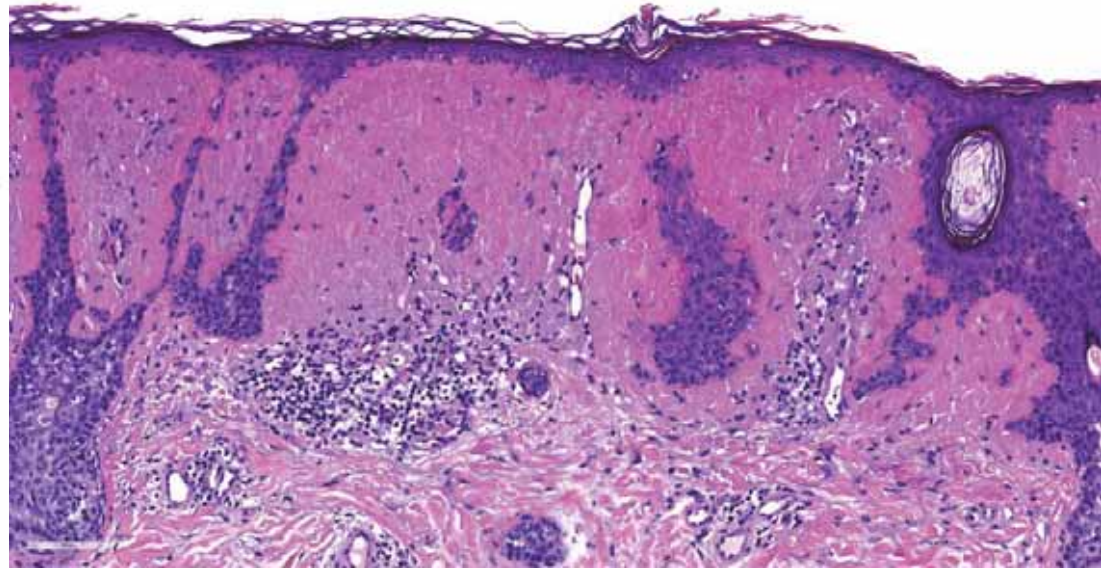
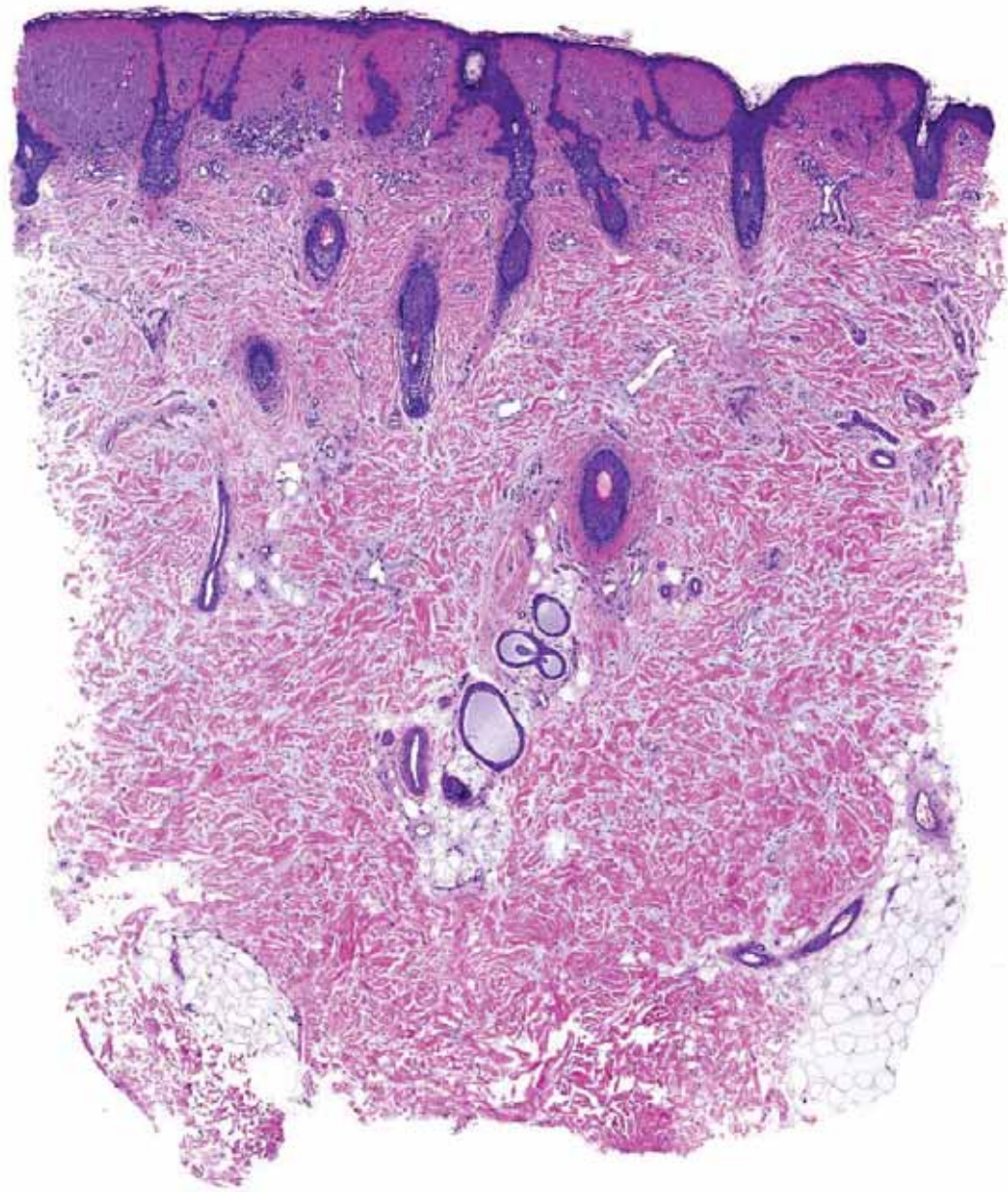
M. Favre-Racouchot

Amyloidosis

Hyalinosis cutis et  
mucosae

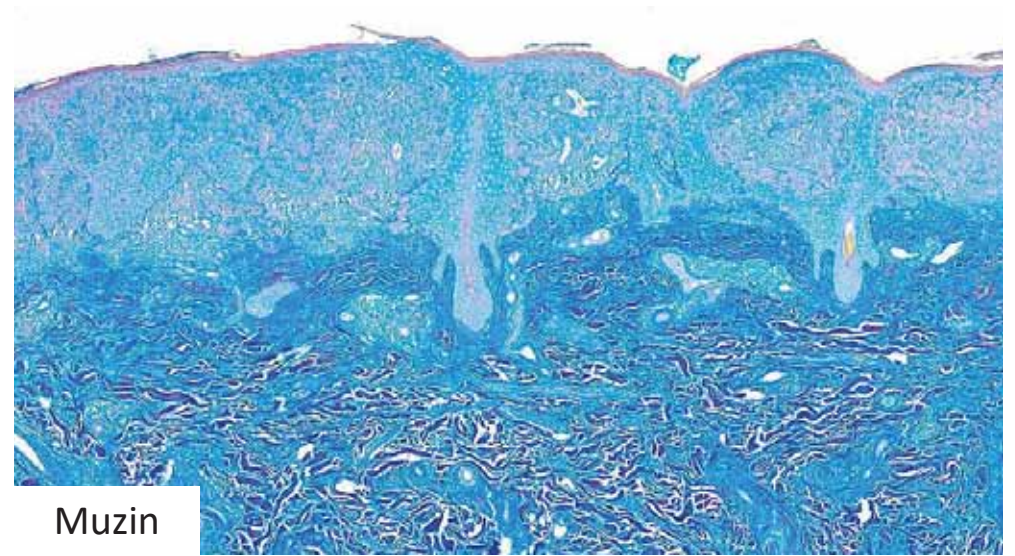
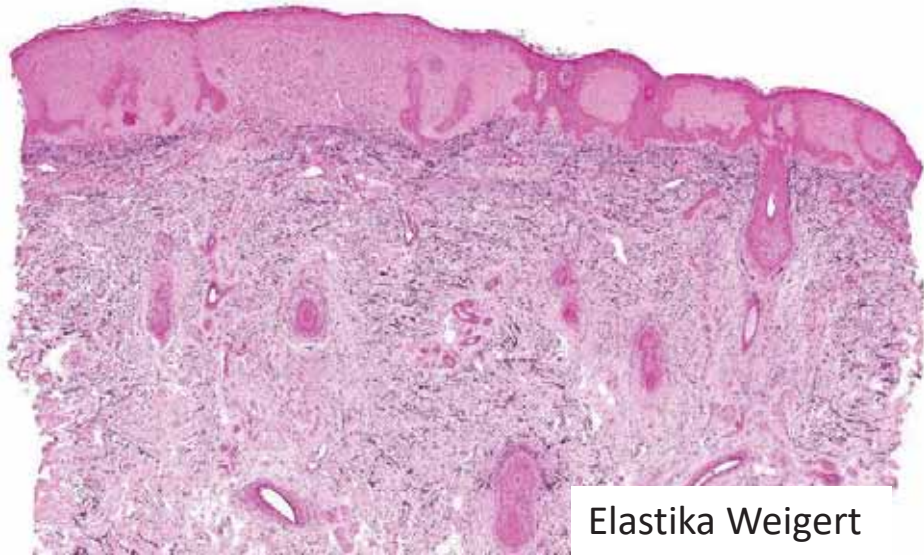
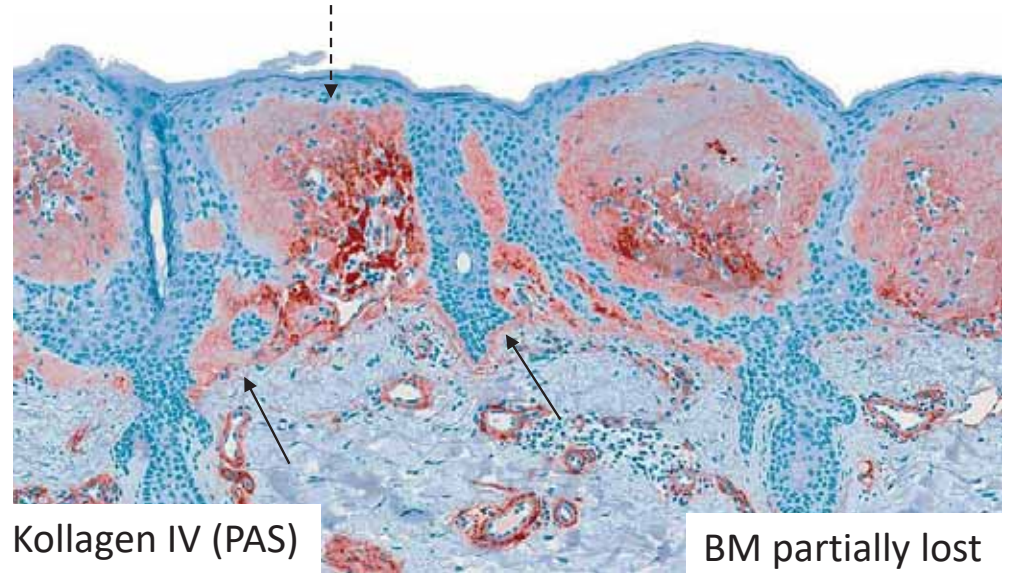
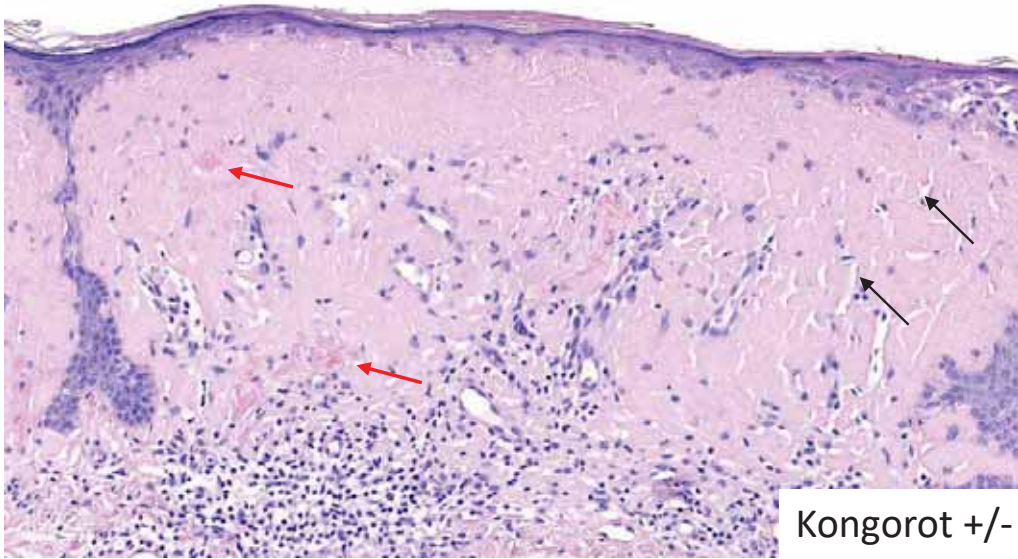
Ochronosis

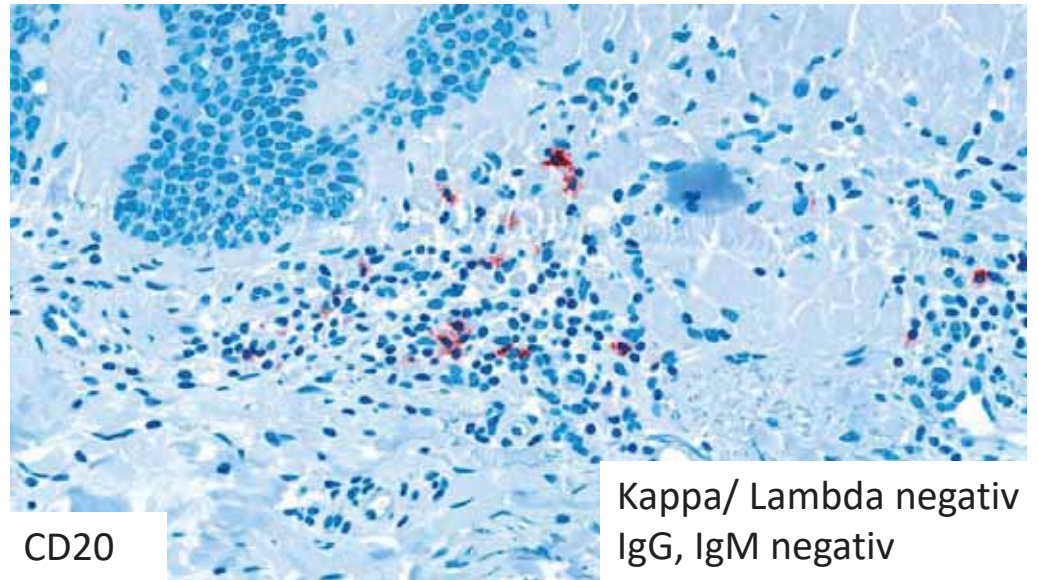
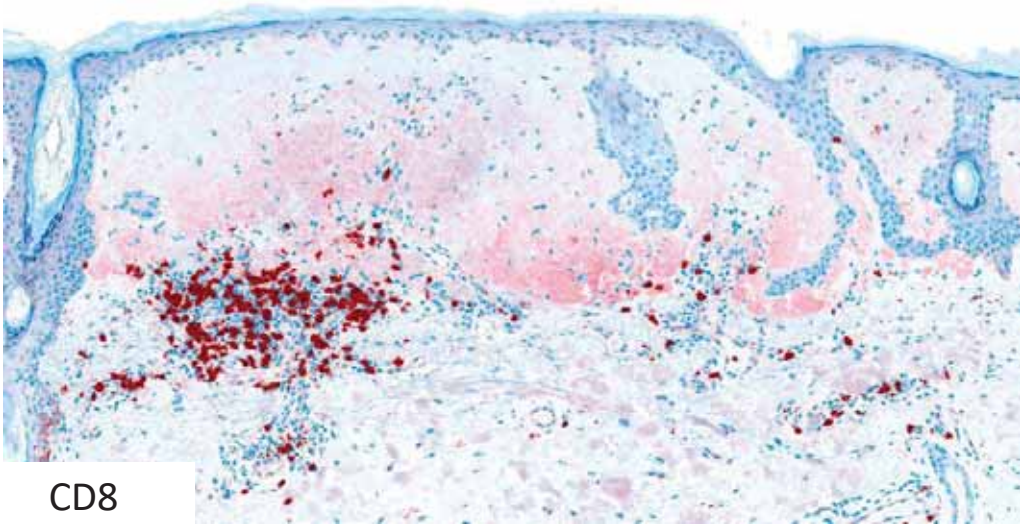
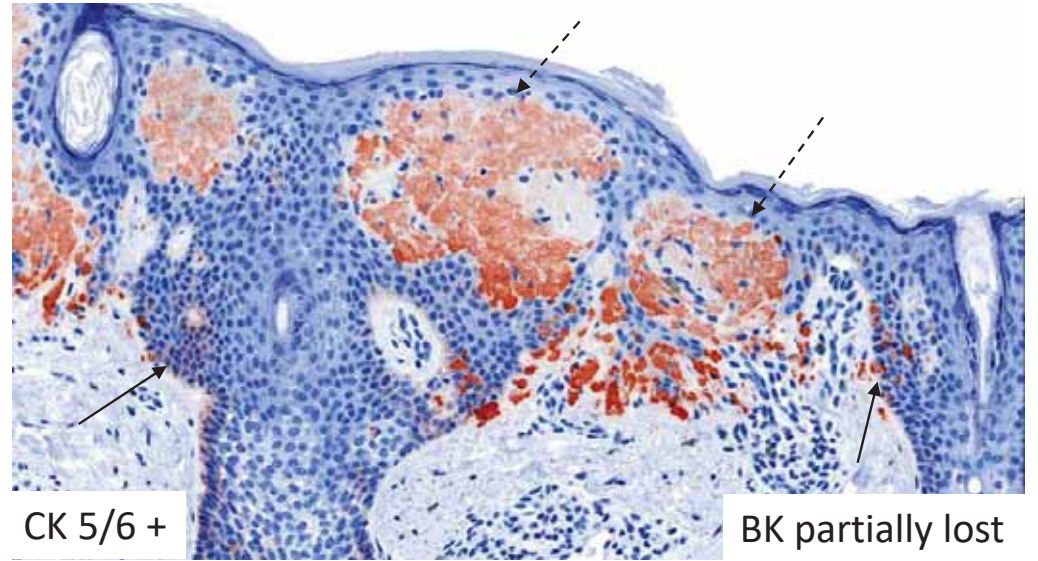
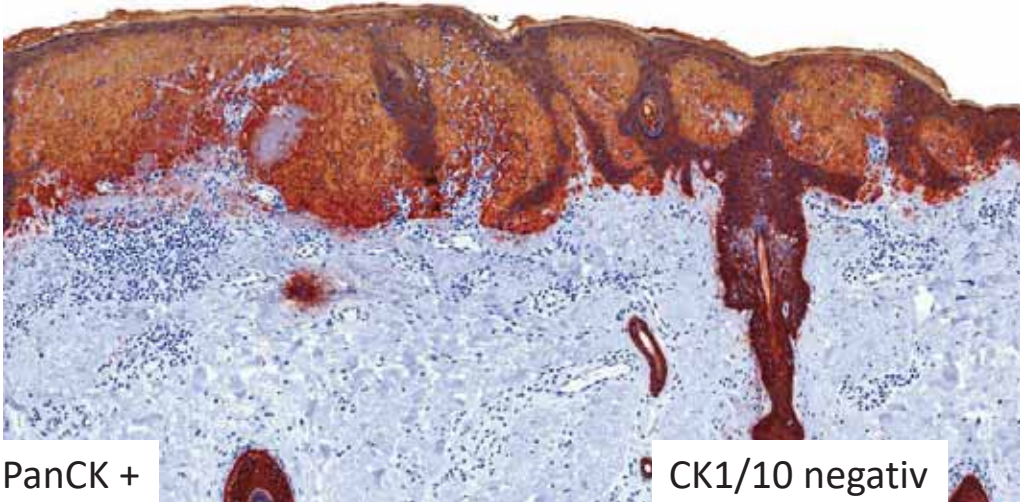
....





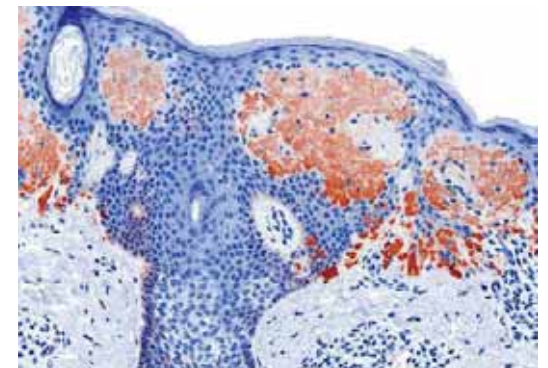
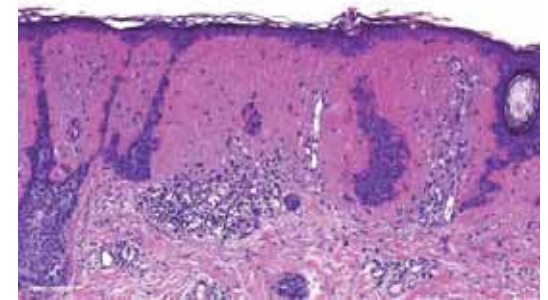






# Juvenile Colloid Milia

- Family history, manifestation before puberty
- Skin-colored to yellowish-brown, solitary or aggregated papules on the nose, cheeks, ears, perioral area, neck or back of the hand (conjunctiva, eyelids or oral mucosa)
- Sometimes gelatinous masses discharge from the papules when pressure is applied
- Other types of Colloid milia (CM):
  - adult CM (Elastosis „colloidalis“): Solar elastosis, Grenz zone, Keratin and Col IV negativ
  - nodular CM: Amyloidosis
  - pigmented CM: Exogenous ochronosis

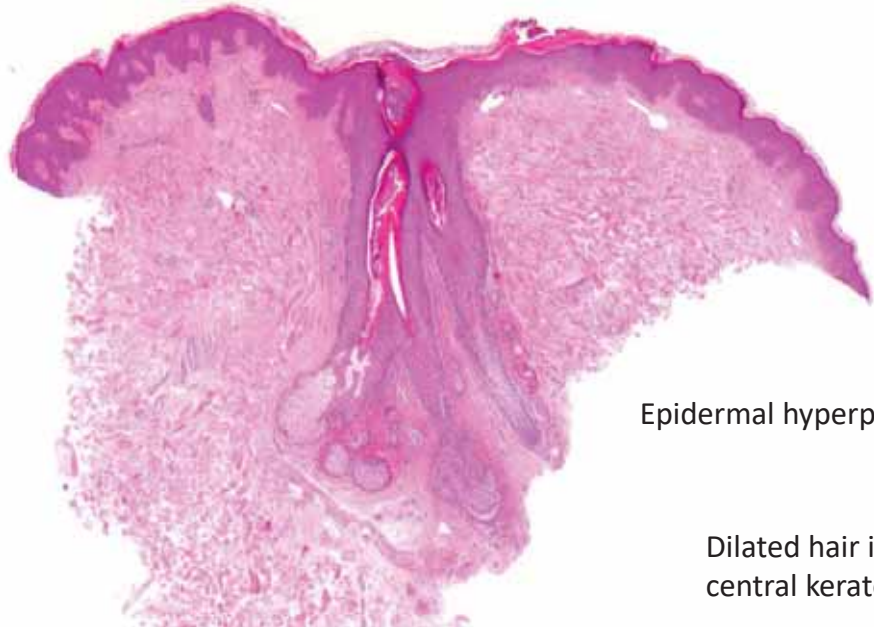


## CASE

- 20-year-old white female with pruritic hyperkeratotic papules on the trunk

At time of biopsy  
no other history





Epidermal hyperplasia with hyperkeratosis

Dilated hair infundibula with central keratotic plugs





- 20 year-old white female with pruritic hyperkeratotic papules on the trunk
- Atopic diathesis, Coeliac disease (gluten-free diet)
- ❖ Vitamin B2, B12, D and zinc deficiency
- ✓ Vitamin A normal
- ✓ HIV negativ
- ✓ Anti-Gliadin and Anti-Transglutaminase negativ (under diet)





# Phrynoderma ("phryno", toad-like skin)

*Rare deficiency condition*

Manifestation: 5-30 years

Follicular hyperkeratotic papules

Dry skin, pruritus

Extensor surfaces of extremities, trunk, buttock

Deficiencies of Vitamin A, B, D  
and zinc or other minerals

Malnutrition, inflammatory bowel diseases,  
bariatric surgery,  
Co-factor friction and trauma

Substitution therapy



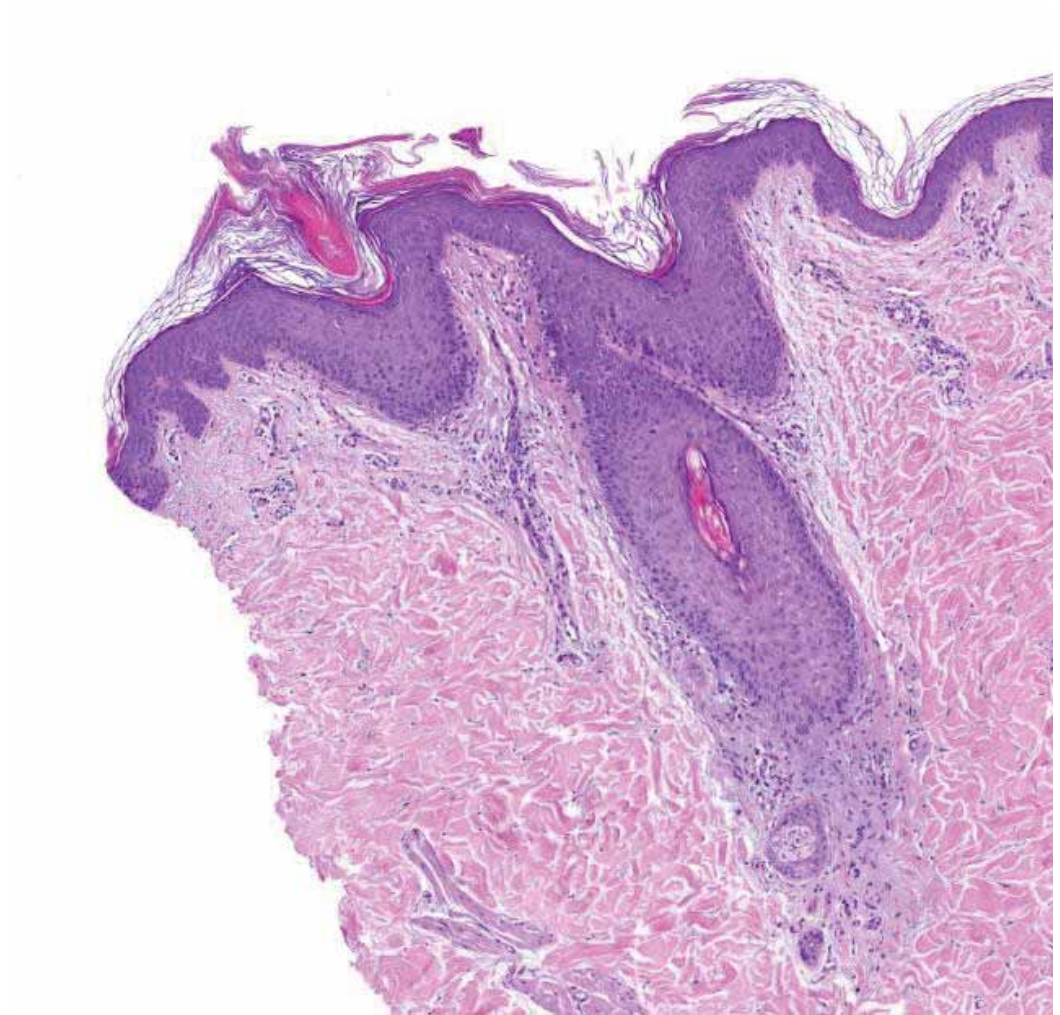
Phrynoderma,  
Xerosis cutis,  
Xerophthalmie  
(night blindness),

Treatment: cod oil

Lucius Nicholls, South-India, 1929  
Loewenthal, East-Africa, 1933

## Follicular hyperkeratosis, isolated or leading finding

- Keratosis pilaris
- Lichen spinulosus
- Comedones, Milia
- Infundibular cysts, dilated pore of Winer
- Trichostasis spinulosa
- Phrynoderma
- Drug-induced



## CASE

- 20-year-old female
- Eruptive occurrence of follicular papules and spiky keratosis
- Alopecia of her eyebrows

At time of biopsy  
no other history



1st Biopsy



Follicular hyperkeratosis

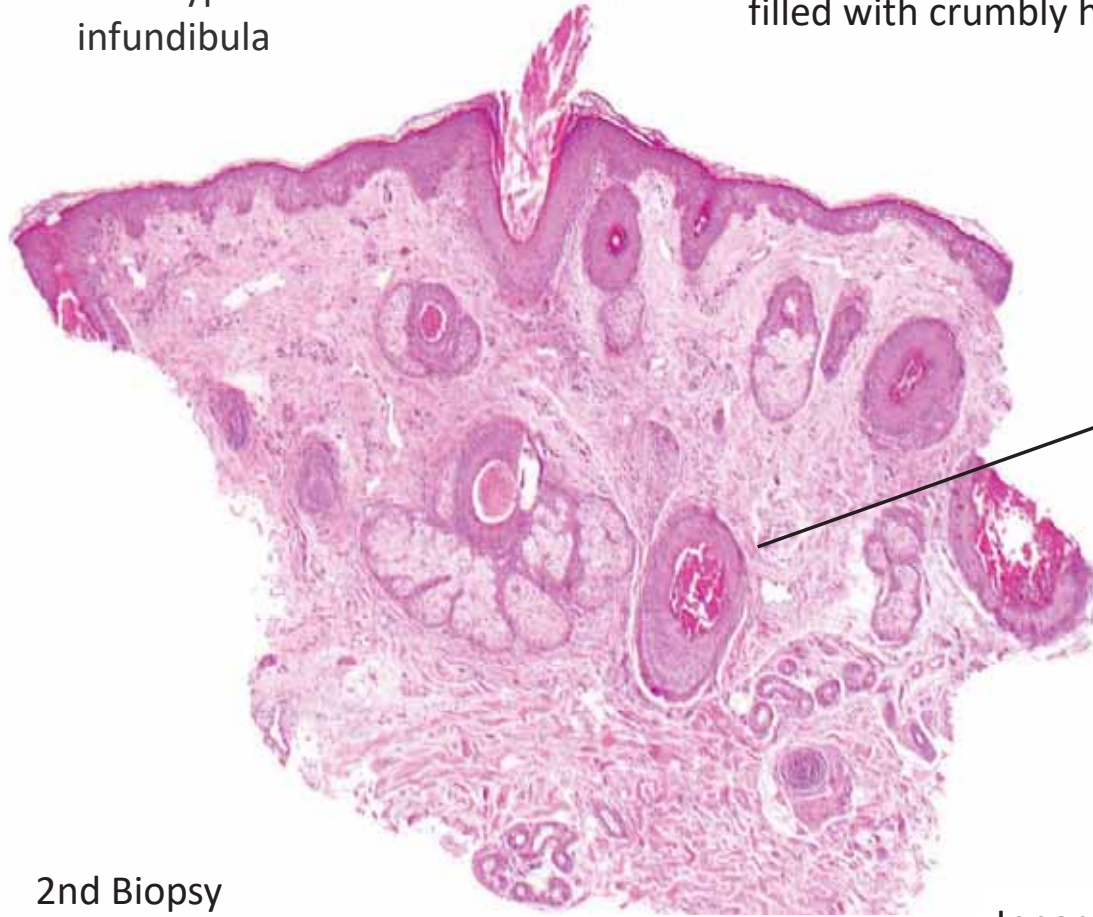
step sections

Deeper parts:  
crumbly horn masses

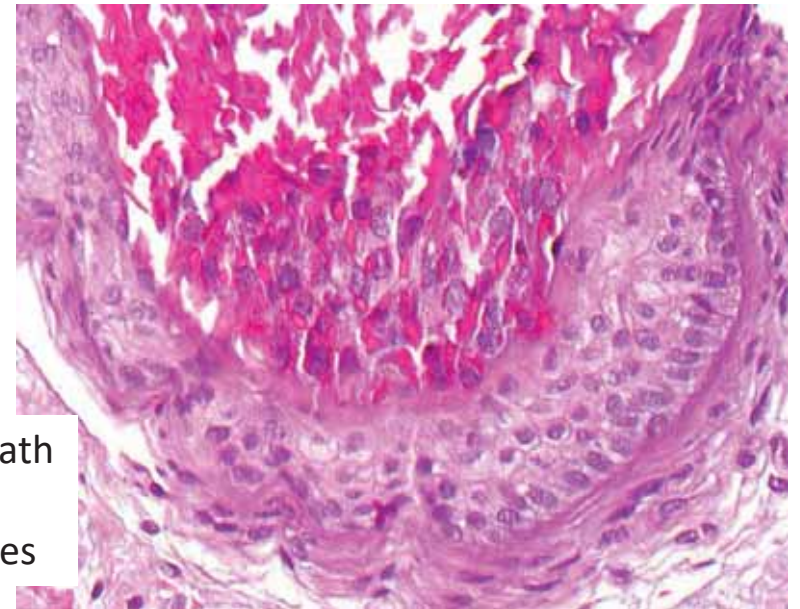
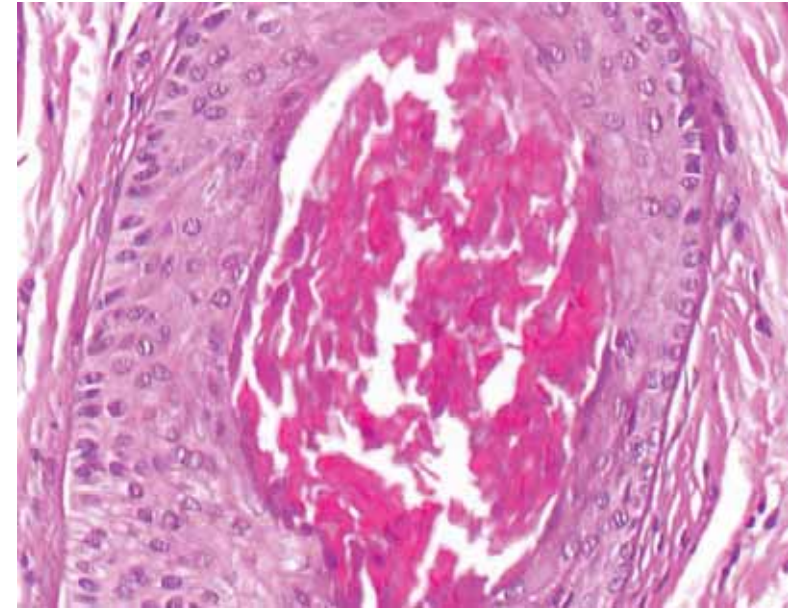


Spiky keratosis  
with hyperkeratotic  
infundibula

Deeper parts of hair follicles  
filled with crumbly horn masses



2nd Biopsy



Inner hair root sheath  
with prominent  
trichohyalin granules

Biopsy sent to Heinz Kutzner



Prompt diagnosis within 24 hours by mail

Biopsy sent to Heinz Kutzner



Prompt diagnosis within 24 hours by mail:

„Trichodysplasia spinulosa,  
PCR for Polyoma virus will be performed“

## CASE

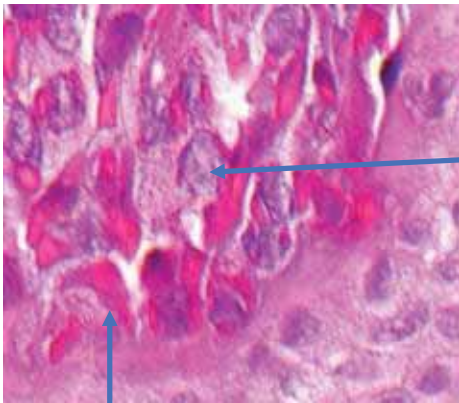
- 20-year-old woman
- Eruptive occurrence of follicular papules and spiky keratosis
- Alopecia of her eyebrows

### History:

- Kidney transplant 9 years ago
- Immunosuppressive therapy with mycophenolate mofetil, prednisolone, tacrolimus







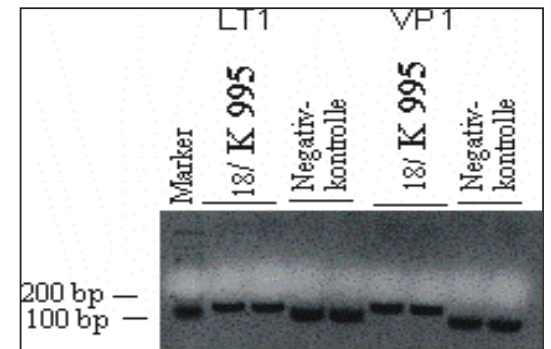
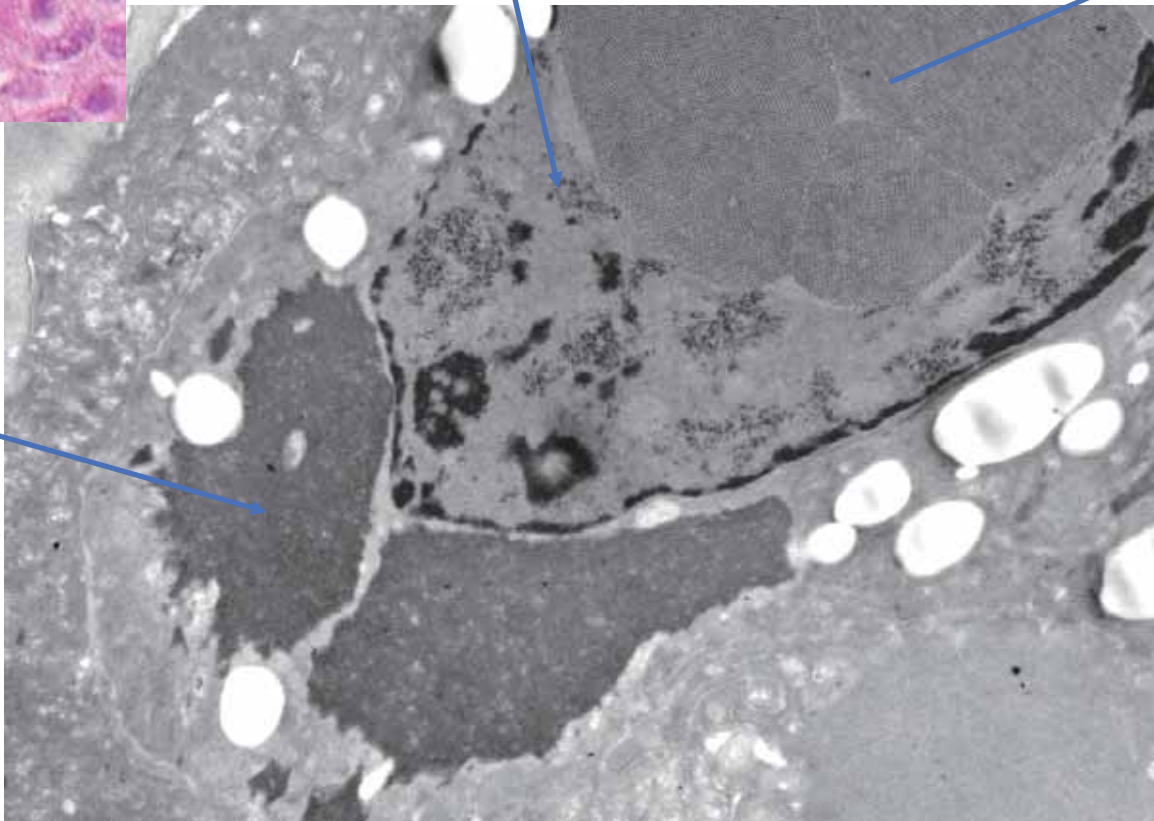
Inner root sheath of the hair follicle

Large pale nuclei

Viral particles in a cristalloid arrangement



Trichohyaline granules



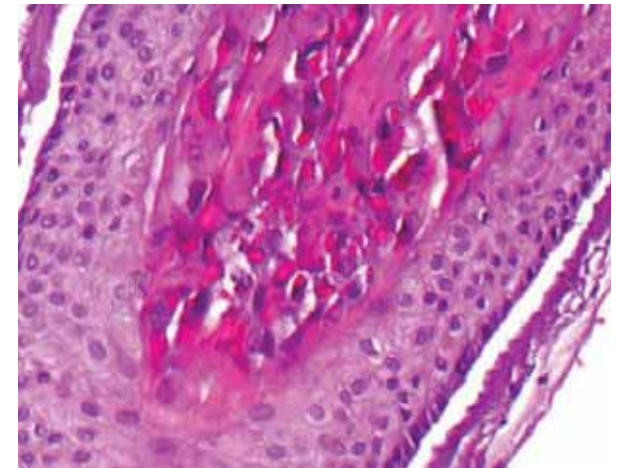
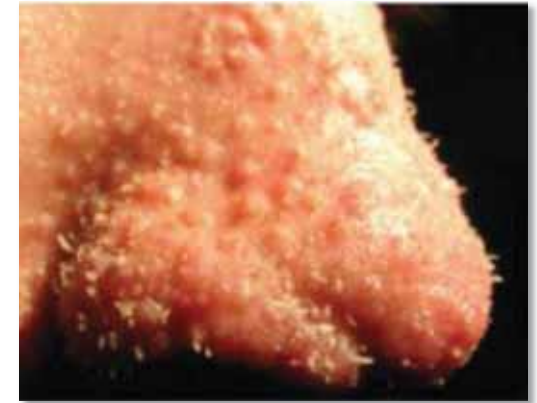
PCR, H. Kutzner, Friedrichshafen

# Trichodysplasia spinulosa (TS)

- Virus infection with TS-associated Polyomavirus
  - Over 90% of adults showing serological evidence of previous exposure to the virus
  - Immunocompromised patients (organ transplant patients)
  - TS through primary infection
- 
- Follicular associated papules, spiky keratoses
  - Centrofacial zone
  - Alopecia (eyebrows)
  - No other symptoms

## Additional diagnostics

Electron microscopy  
Immunohistochemistry  
PCR  
(Serology not helpful)

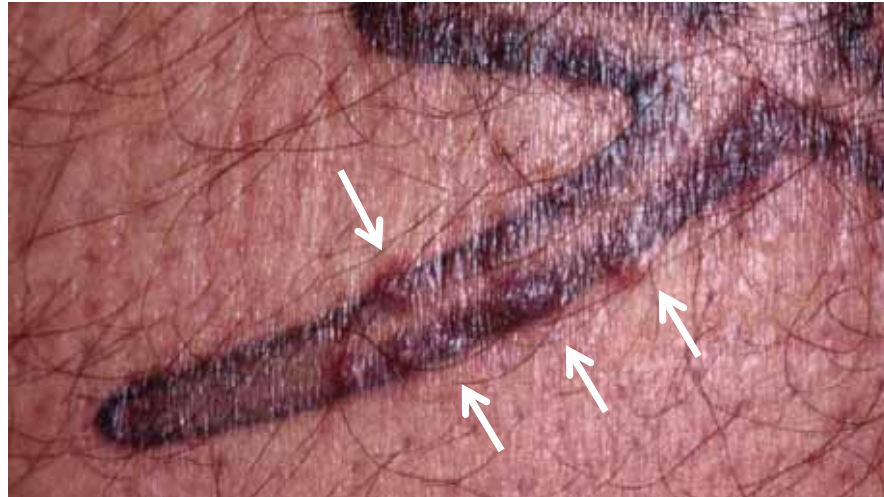


Disturbed cornification of the inner root sheath of hair follicles

*Haycox et al., J Investig Dermatol Symp Proc 1999;*  
*Van der Meijden et al., PLoS Pathog 2010*  
*Wanat et al., Arch Dermatol 2012;*  
*Fischer et al., Arch Dermatol 2012*



23-y-old man,  
professional tattoo on lower leg,  
otherwise healthy



Papules and pustules after 4 months,  
no itch, no erythema  
no fever, no lymphadenopathy

# Tattoo Reactions

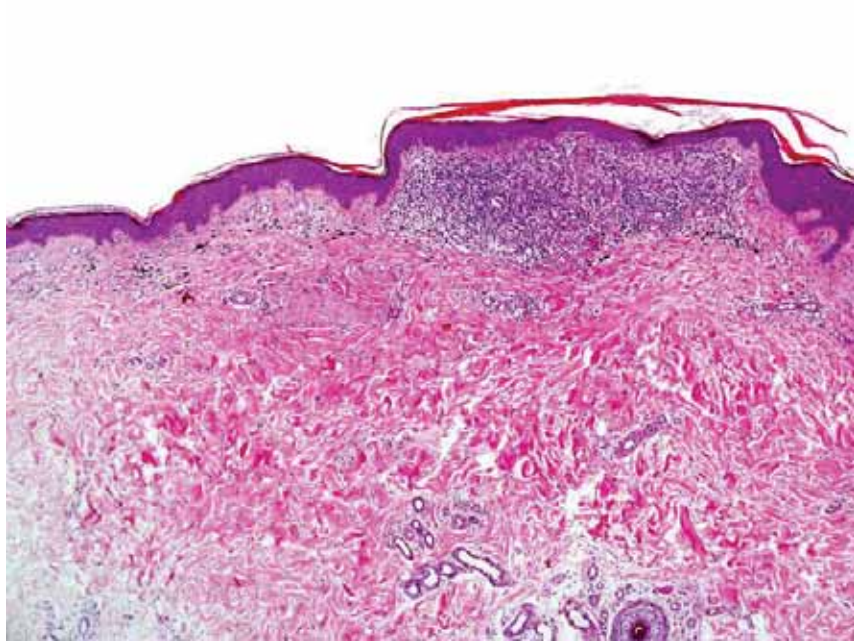
- Hypersensitivity reactions
- Photoallergic reaction
- Foreign body reaction
- Sarkoidosis
- Lymphomatoid reactions
- Lymphoma
- Keloid
- Pseudoepitheliomatous hyperplasia
- Köbner-phenomenon  
(Psoriasis, Lichen planus, LE, Darier, ....)
- Infection



Contact Dermatitis

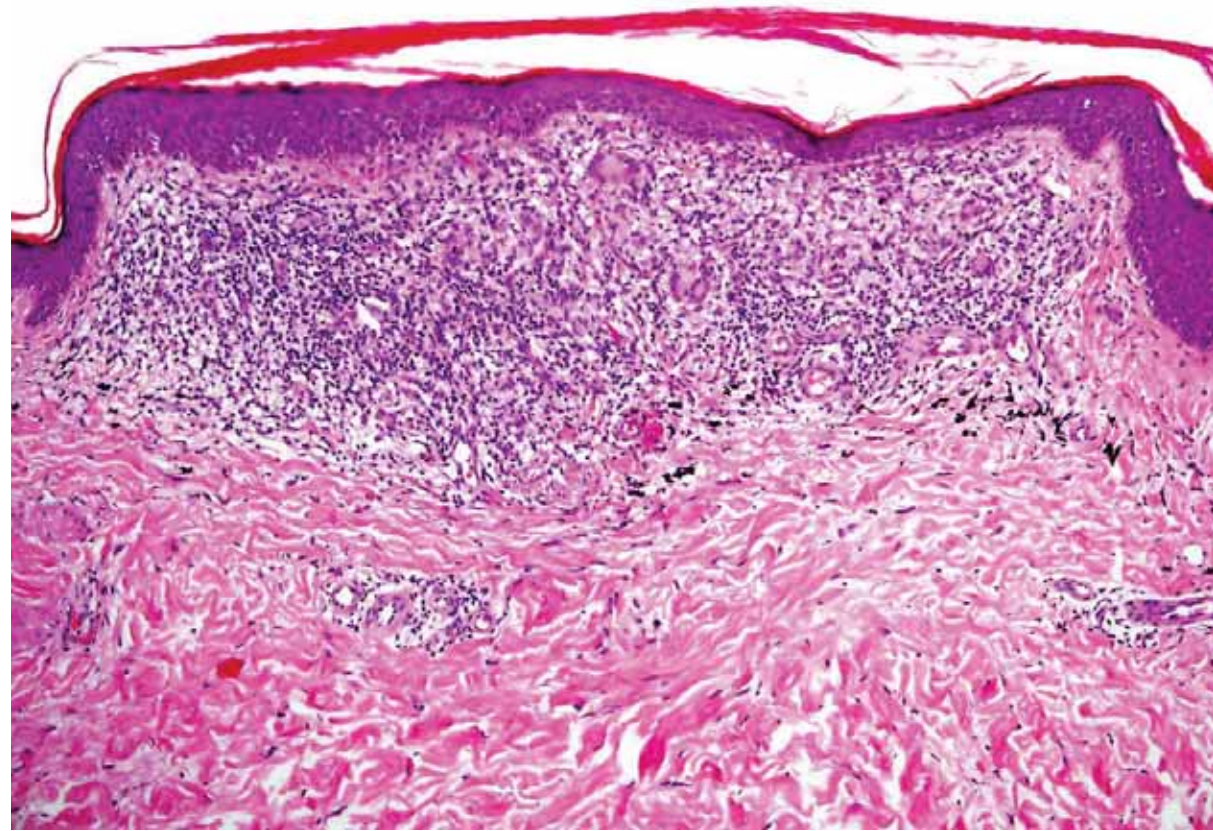


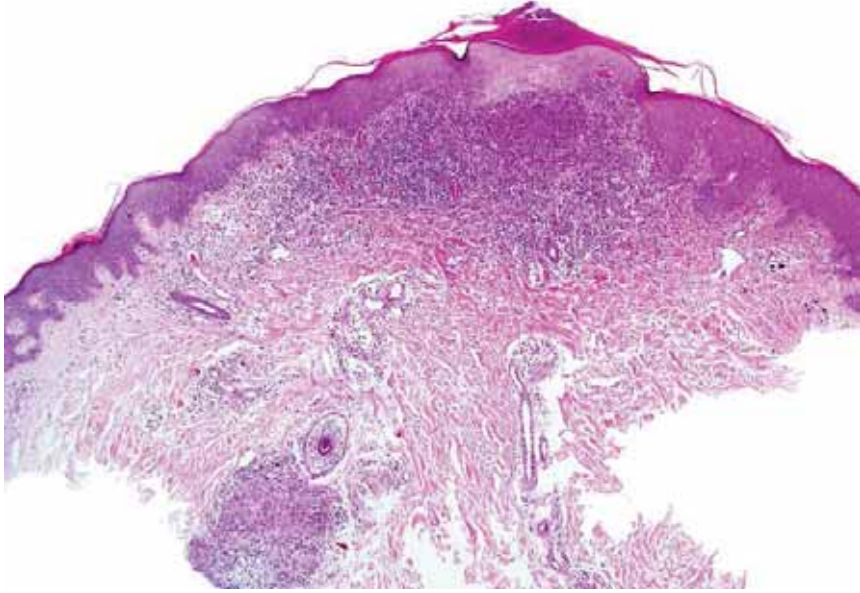
Psoriasis



Lichenoid, granulomatous Dermatitis

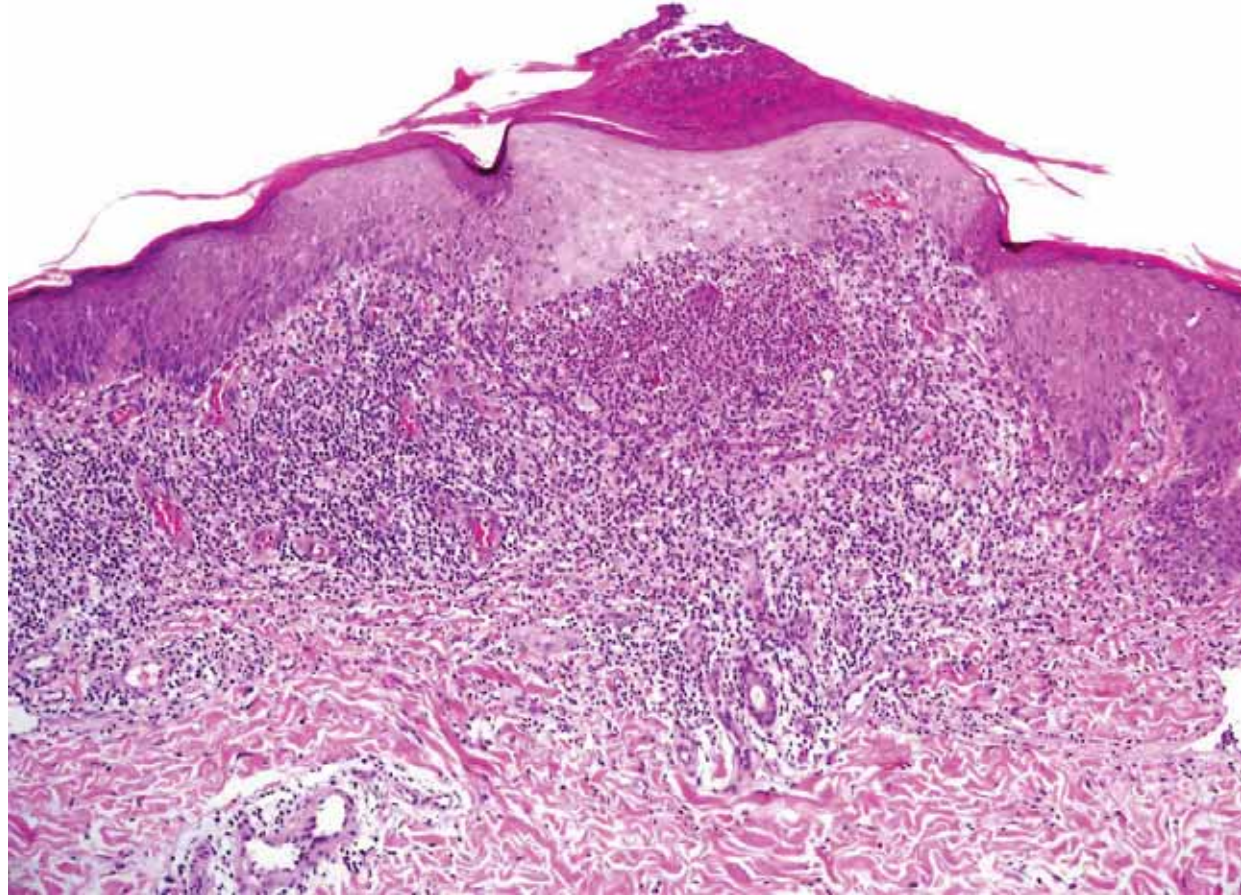
Biopsy 1, papule

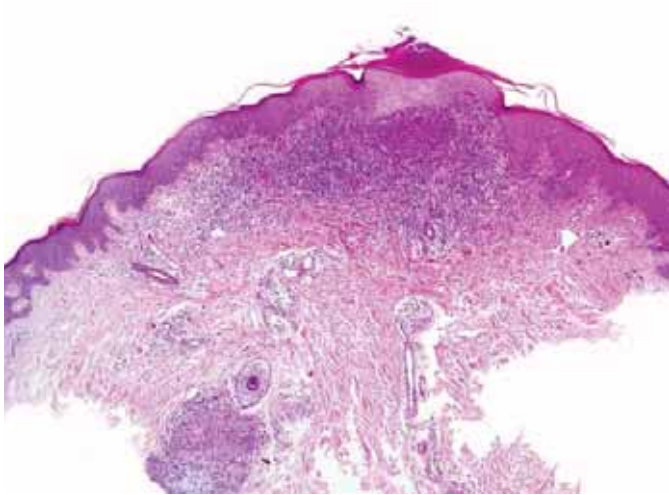




Suppurative and pustular Dermatitis

Biopsy 2, pustular lesion





Negative

Patch tests (tattoo pigments including original dyes, metals, and others)

X-ray and CT-lung

Blood test including ACE, lysozyme

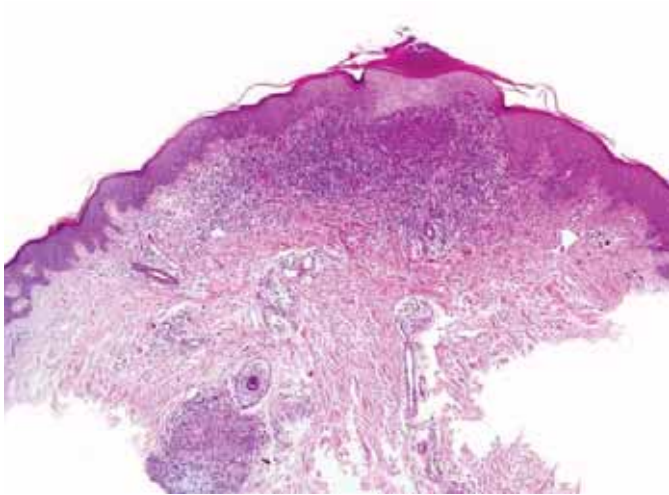
Tine-Test

**Histology:** Lichenoid, granulomatous, suppurative Dermatitis

Histologic stains for acid-fast-bacilli and fungi: negative

Culture from a swab: Staph. aureus positive

???



### Negative

Patch tests (tattoo pigments including original dyes, metals, and others)

X-ray and CT-lung

Blood test including ACE, lysozyme

Tine-Test

**Histology:** Lichenoid, granulomatous, suppurative Dermatitis

Histologic stains for acid-fast-bacilli and fungi: negative

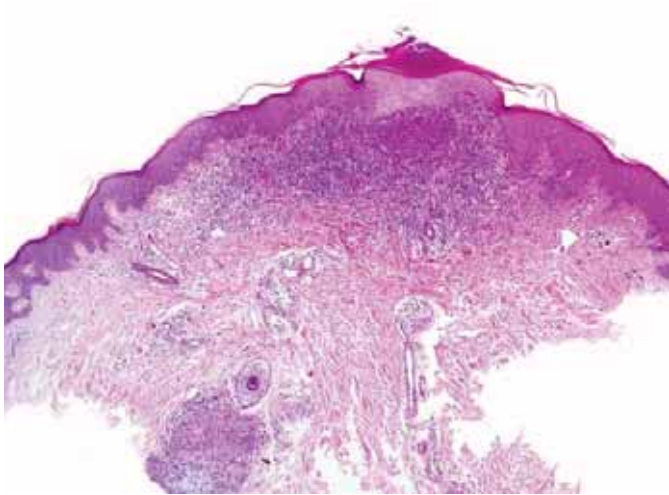
Culture from a swab: Staph. aureus positive

PCR for 16S RNA-gene from unfixed tissue (common to all *bacteria*): negativ



???





### Negative

Patch tests (tattoo pigments including original dyes, metals, and others)

X-ray and CT-lung

Blood test including ACE, lysozyme

Tine-Test

**Histology:** Lichenoid, granulomatous, suppurative Dermatitis

Histologic stains for acid-fast-bacilli and fungi: negative

Culture from a swab: Staph. aureus positive

PCR for 16S RNA-gene from unfixed tissue (common to all *bacteria*): negativ

Culture from unfixed tissue (after 3 months): *Mycobacterium chelonae*

# Mycobacterium chelonae infection

- Saprophyte found in water, soil, dust and animals
- **Infections** follow trauma, surgery, contact with contaminated medical instruments (e.g. marker pen, liposuction, mesotherapy), placement of implants (e.g. prosthetic breast implants), acupuncture, botulinum toxin, and **tattooing** (Local immunosuppression by metals and azo-dyes)
- Diagnosis: Bacterial culture higher sensitivity than PCR
- Low mortality
- Spontaneous healing
- **Immunocompromised** patients more susceptible to severe, systemic spread to lung and heart, high mortality



## *Follow up*

Therapeutic recommendation:  
Clarithromycin and ciprofloxacin,  
but spontaneous resolution after 5 months

# CASE

- 68-year-old woman
- Sudden hearing loss, **Hydroxyethyl starch (HES)**
- After 15 infusions, 500 ml/d (450 g HES):  
Episodes of generalized, severe, burning **pruritus**  
on normal appearing skin  
**Periocular swelling**
- Laboratory parameters widely normal  
including lipidstatus
- After 6 months pruritus decreased
- Swelling persisted for > 4 years
- Patient's and family history unremarkable

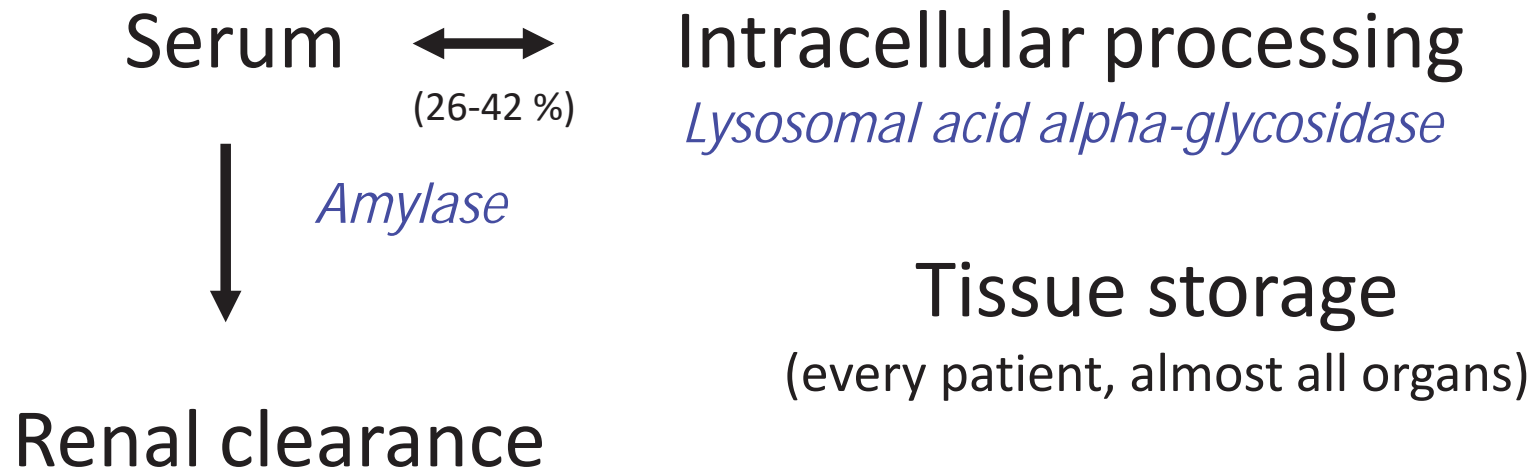


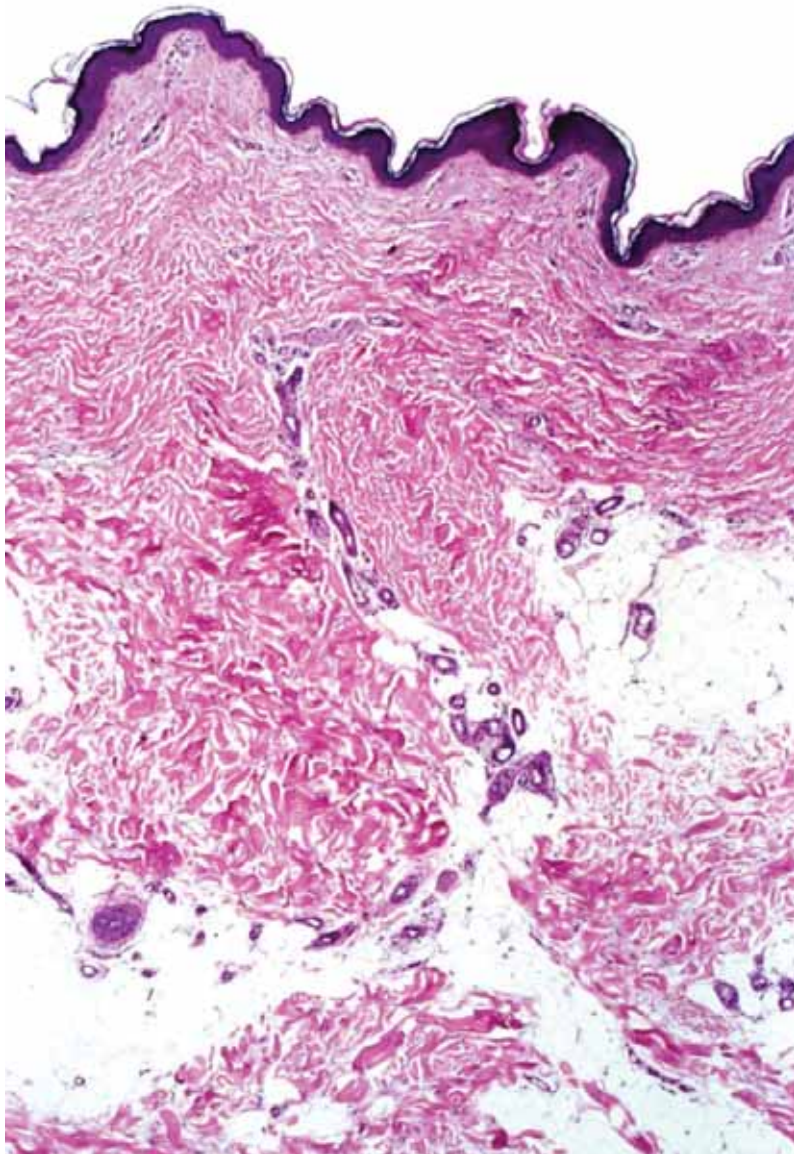
Peter Kiehl†, Hannover

# Hydroxyethyl starch (HES)

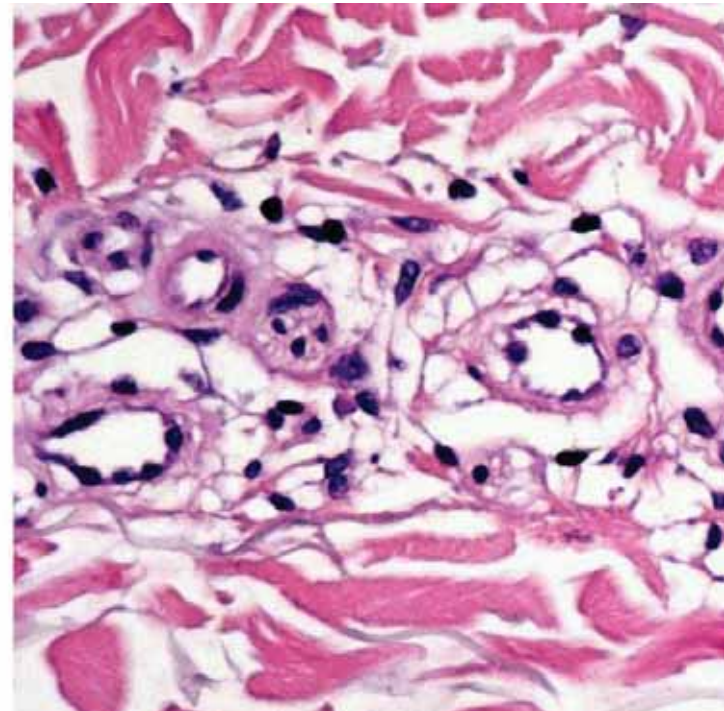
Plasmaexpander used for plasma volume substitution and improvement of microcirculation

## HES - Metabolism



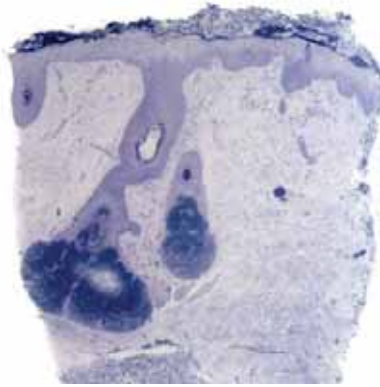


1st Biopsy, pruritic, non-inflamed arm

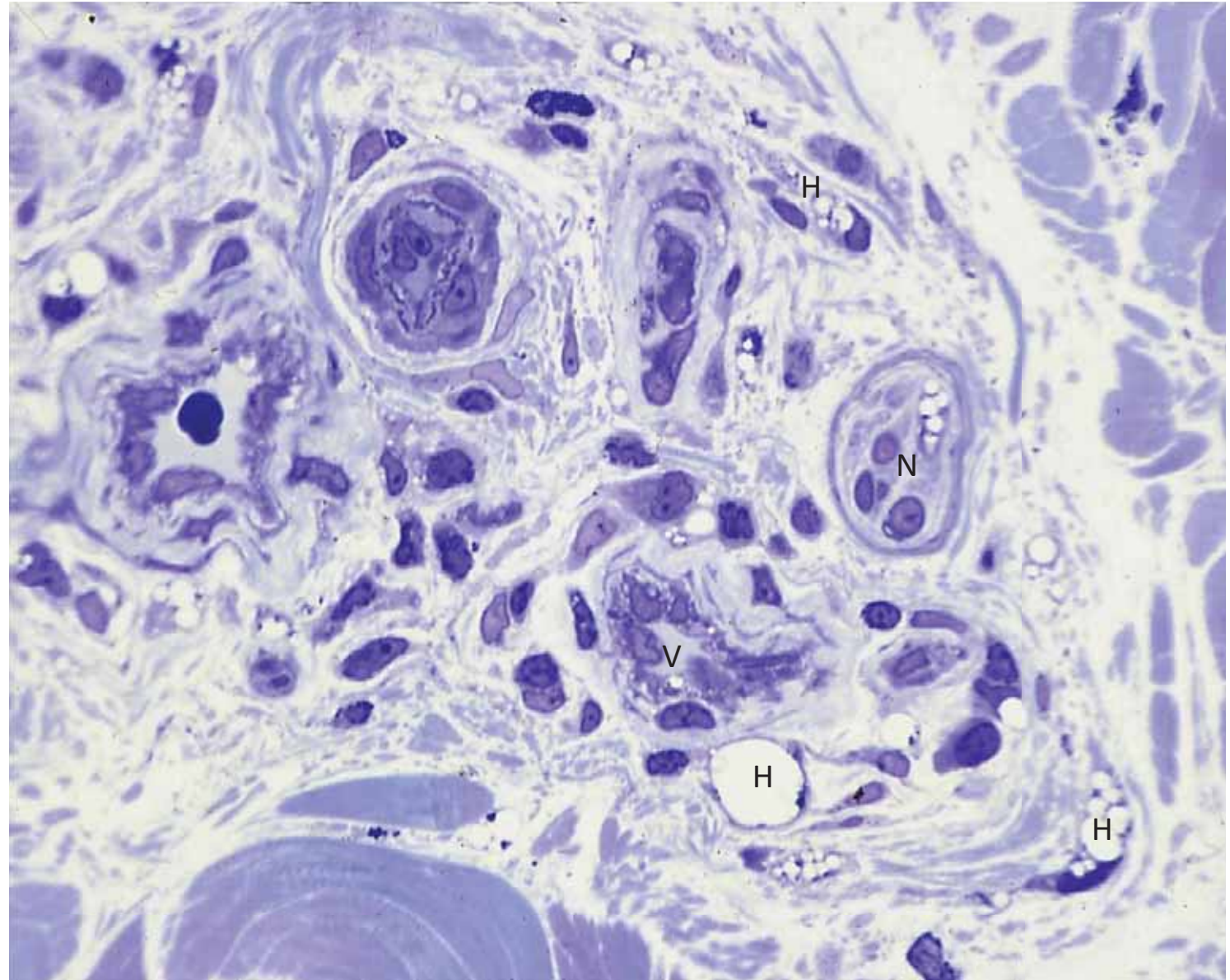


Paraffine section  
Histologically - normal skin

Epon-embedding



Semithin section (< 500nm),  
Toluidine blue



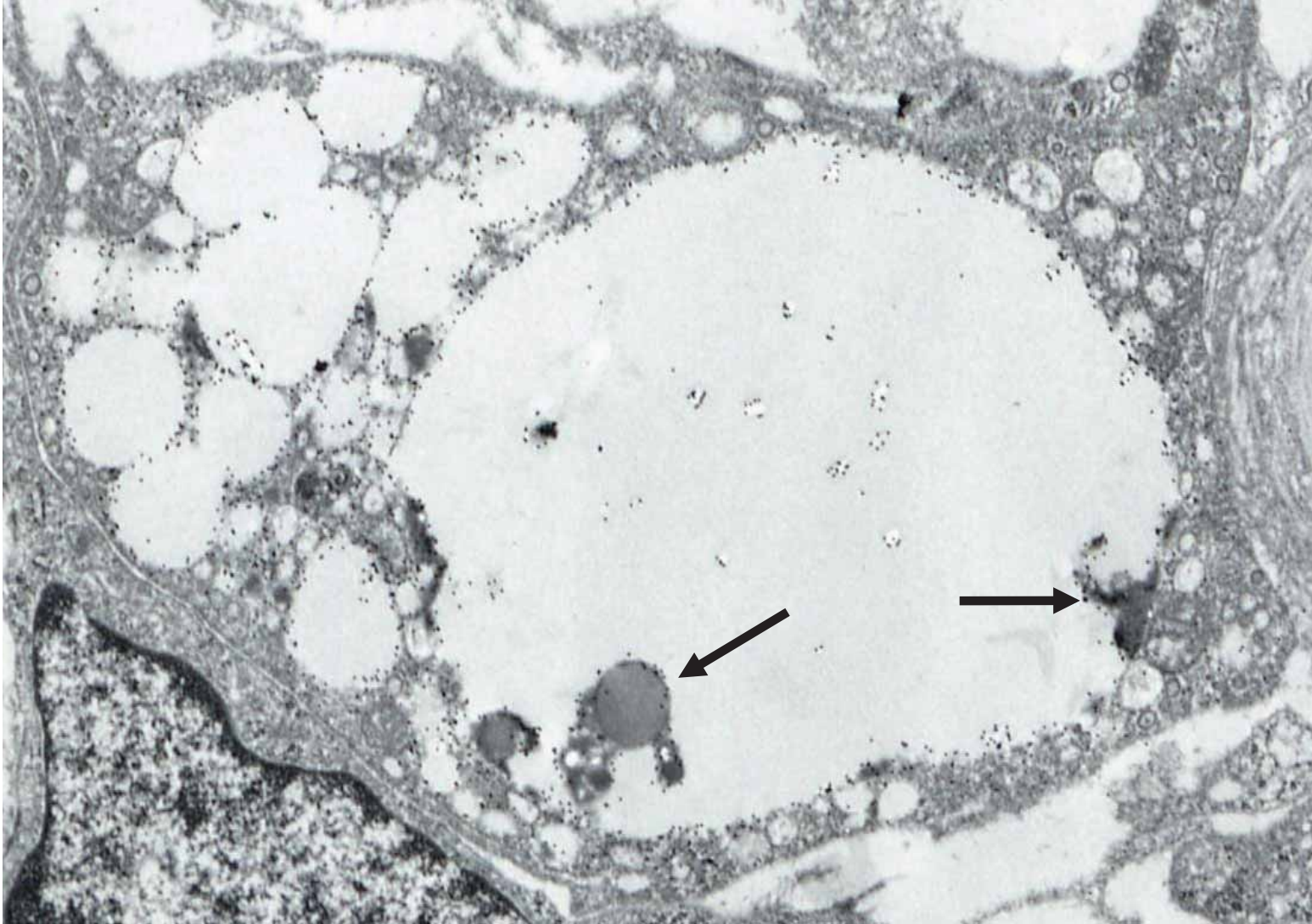
Routine electron microscopy

Ultrathin section  
50-100nm



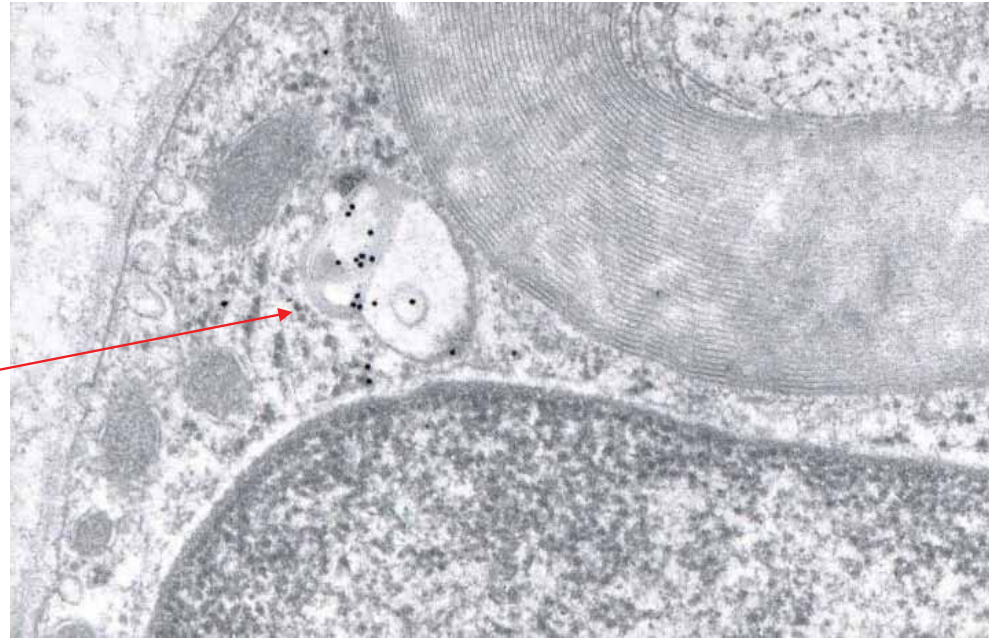
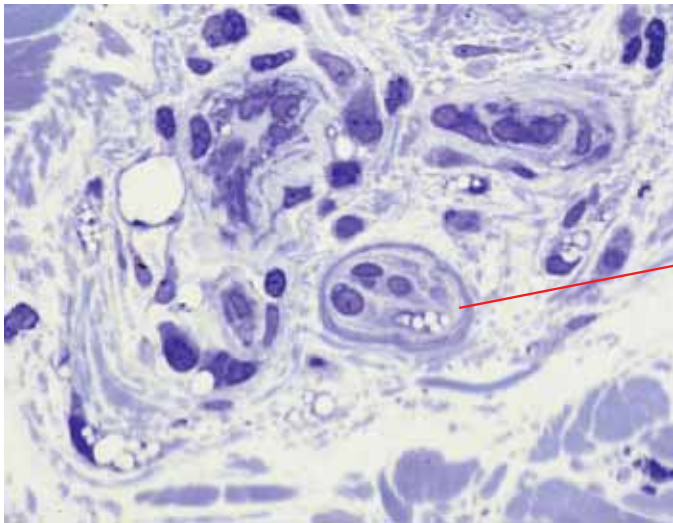
Macrophages, vacuolated with amorphous deposits





Postembedding Immuno-EM, Gold-labelled HES-Antibodies

Only patients with pruritus



Metze D, Reimann S, et al. Efficacy and safety of naltrexone, an oral opiate receptor antagonist, in the treatment of pruritus in internal and dermatological diseases.  
*J Am Acad Dermatol*, 41:533-539, 1999



Sonja Ständer  
(Reimann)



# HES-induced pruritus

- Risk depends on cumulative dosage (32%, >400 g)
- Symptoms start days or weeks after last infusions
- Burning itch
- Pruritic episodes triggered by warm water, friction, physical stress (*Alloknesis*)
- Very disturbing, quality of life reduced
- Symptoms persist for months (years)

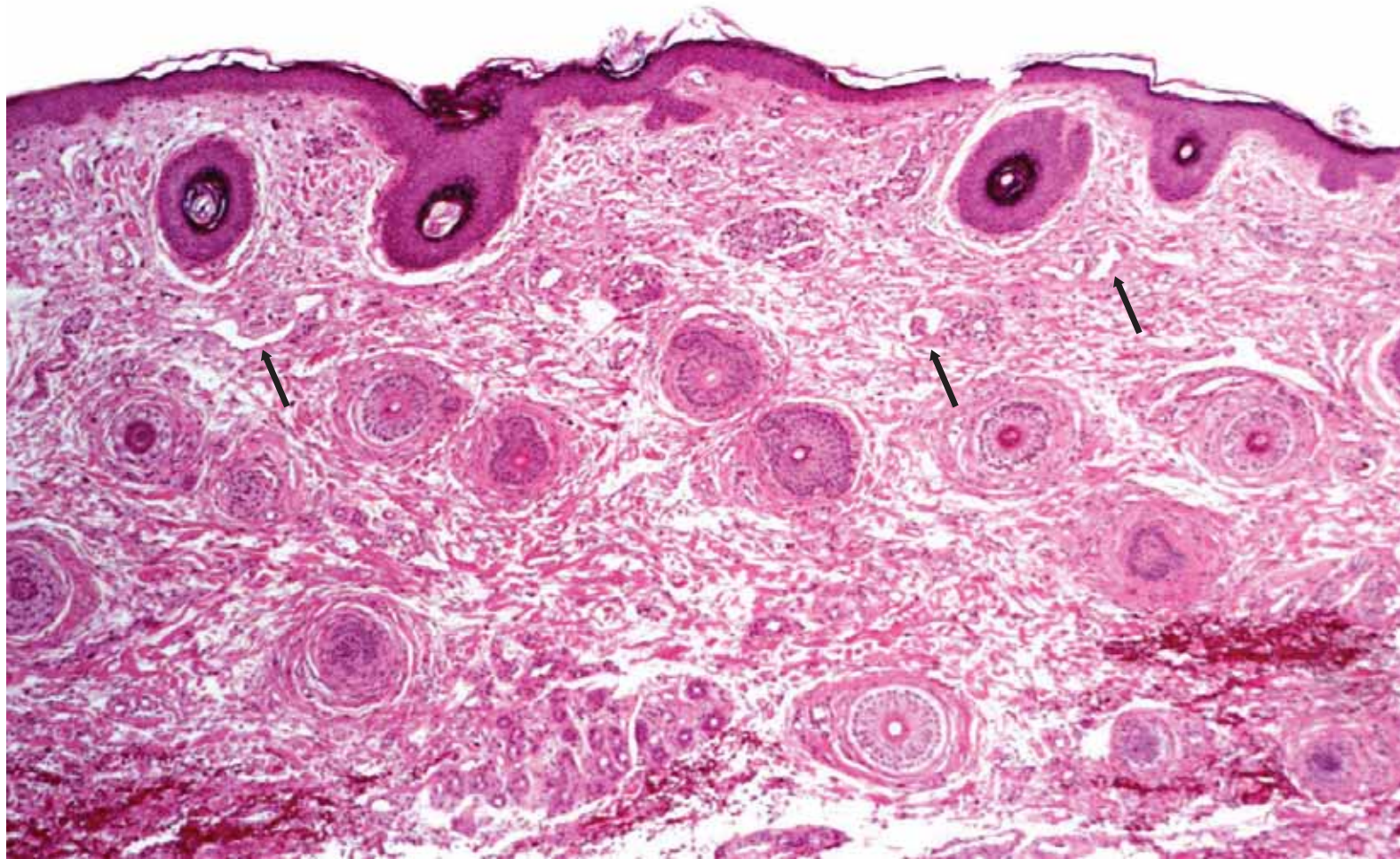


D. Metze, D. Reimann, et al, Br J Dermatol, 1997  
S. Ständer, et al. Br J Dermatol, 2005  
S. Ständer, et al, Acta Derm Venereol, 2013

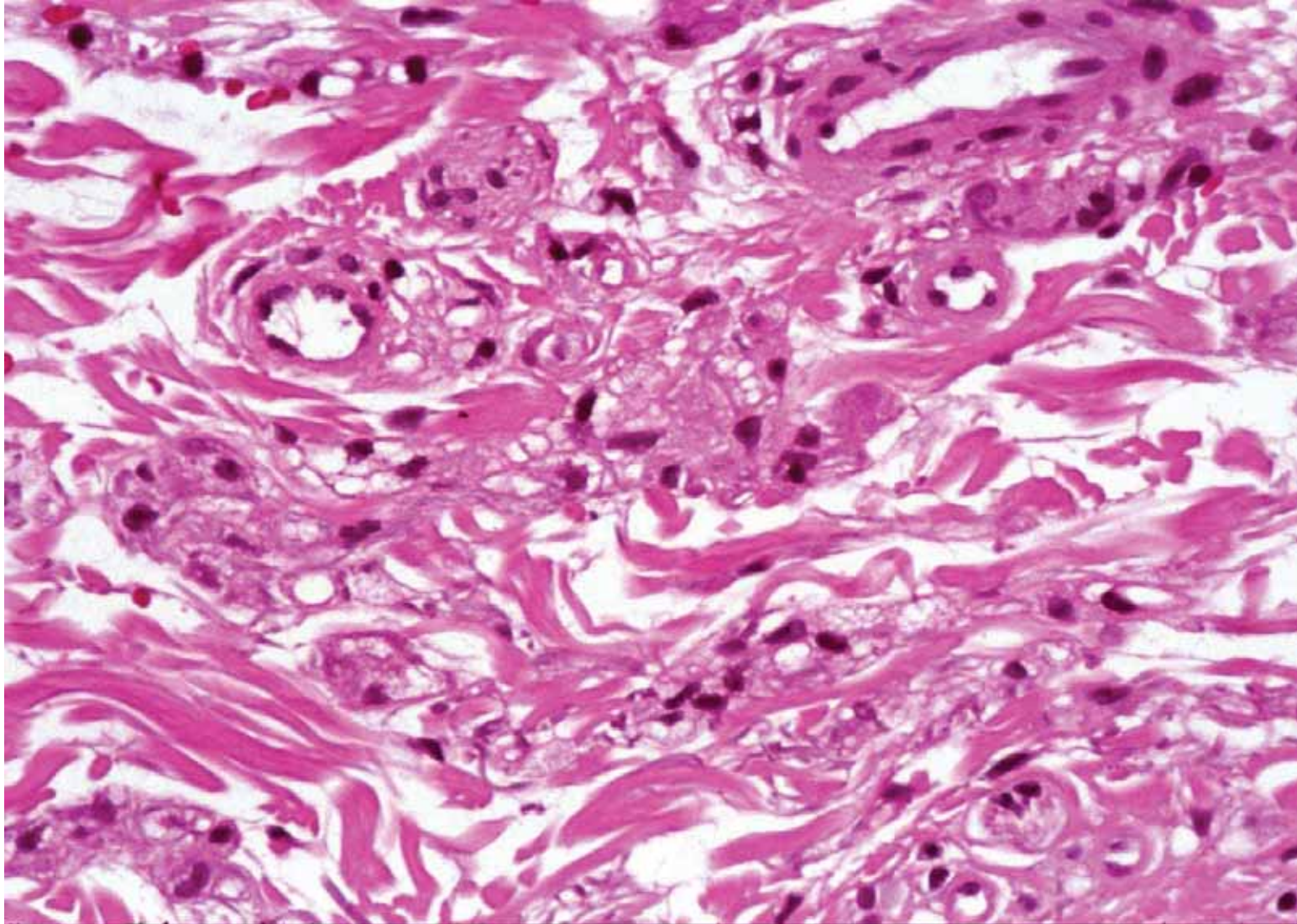
Clinical examination: no visible skin changes,  
red dermographism possible  
Treatment: Capsaicin, polidocanol, naltrexone,  
gabapentin ...  
(no effect of antihistamines, steroids, UV irradiation, ....)



2<sup>nd</sup> Biopsy from periorbital skin – swelling ?



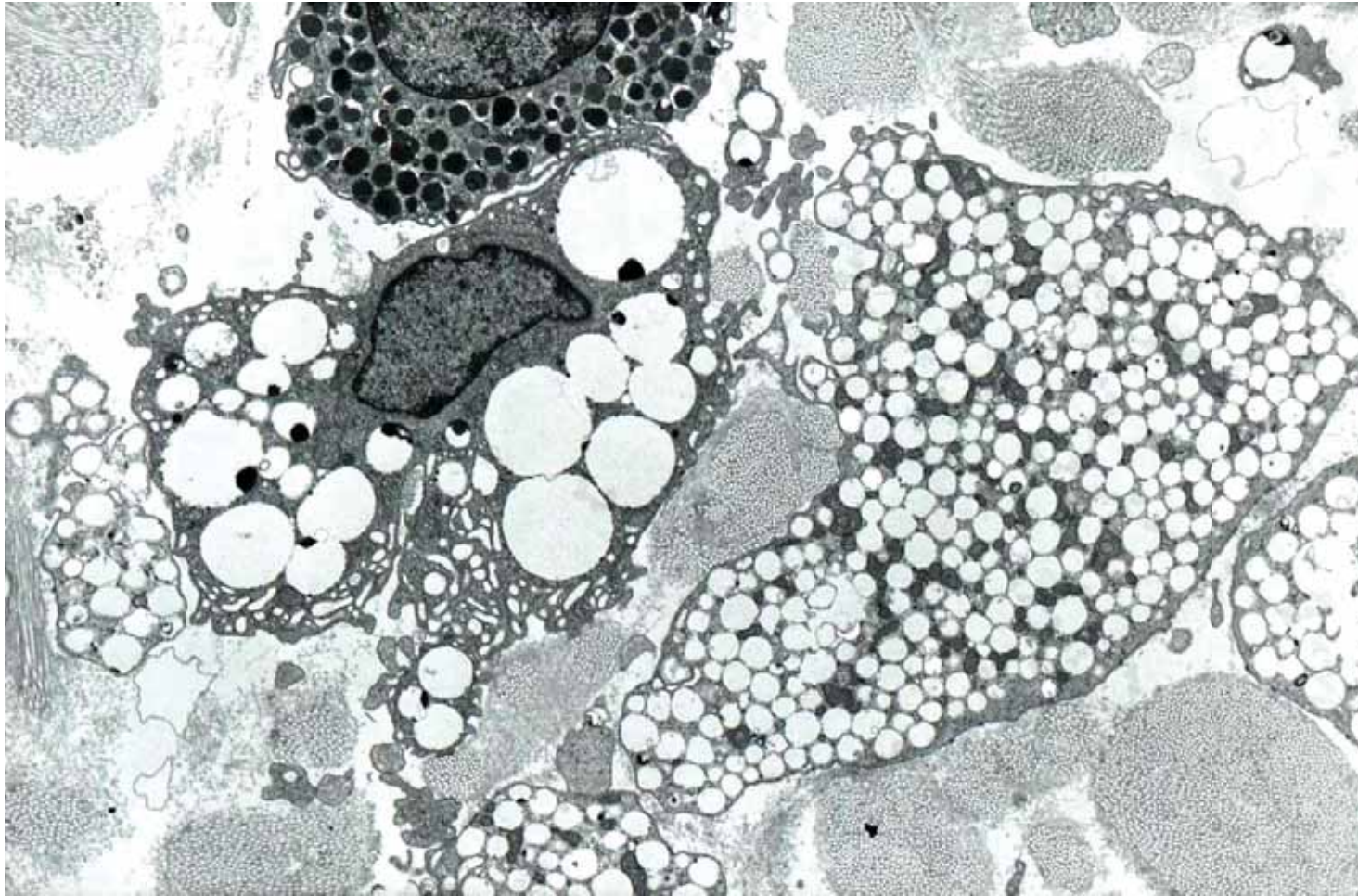
Diffuse infiltrate of macrophages, dilated lymphvessels



Xanthomatization of macrophages



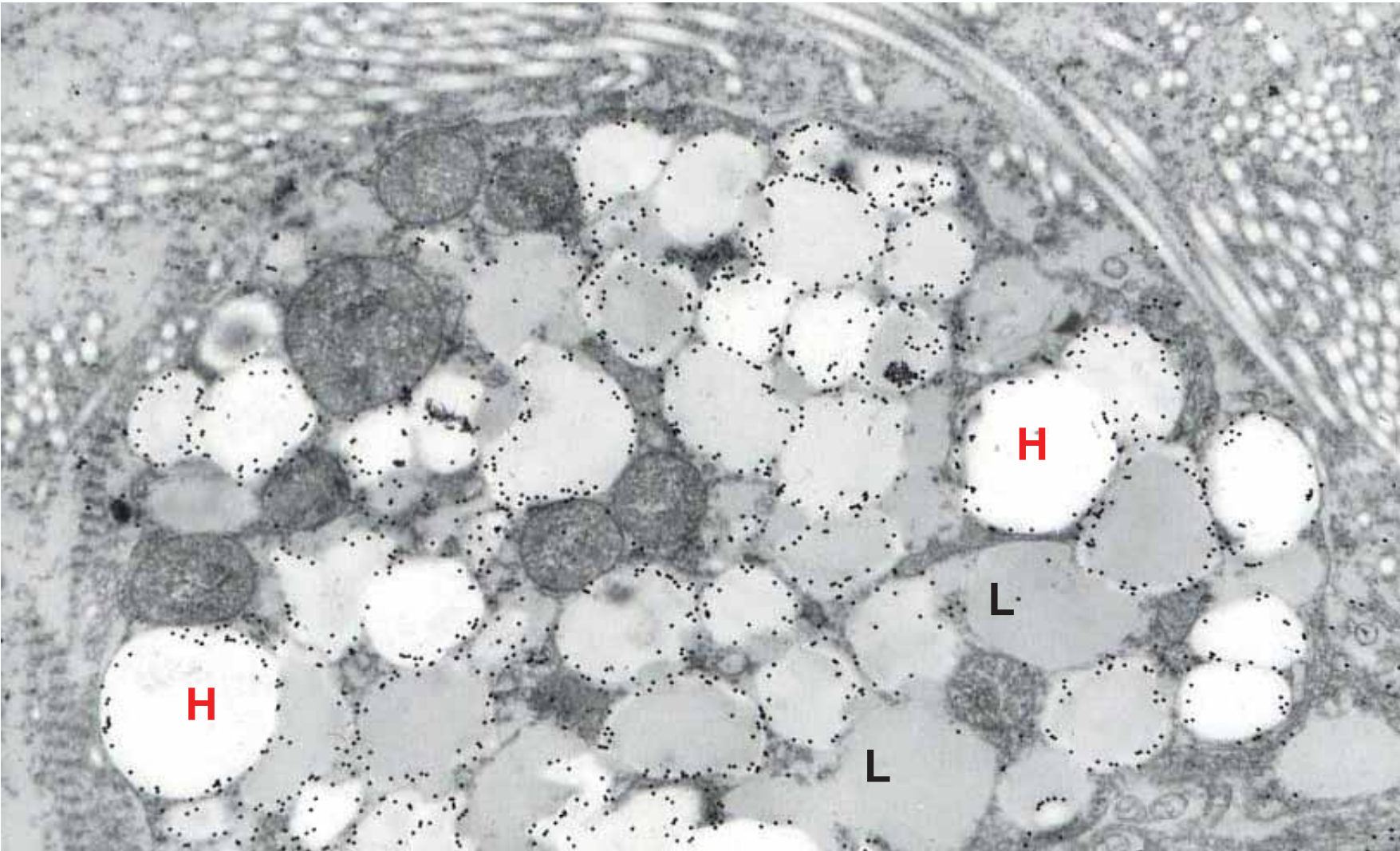
Mast cell



Macrophages with HES storage

Macrophages with Xanthomatization



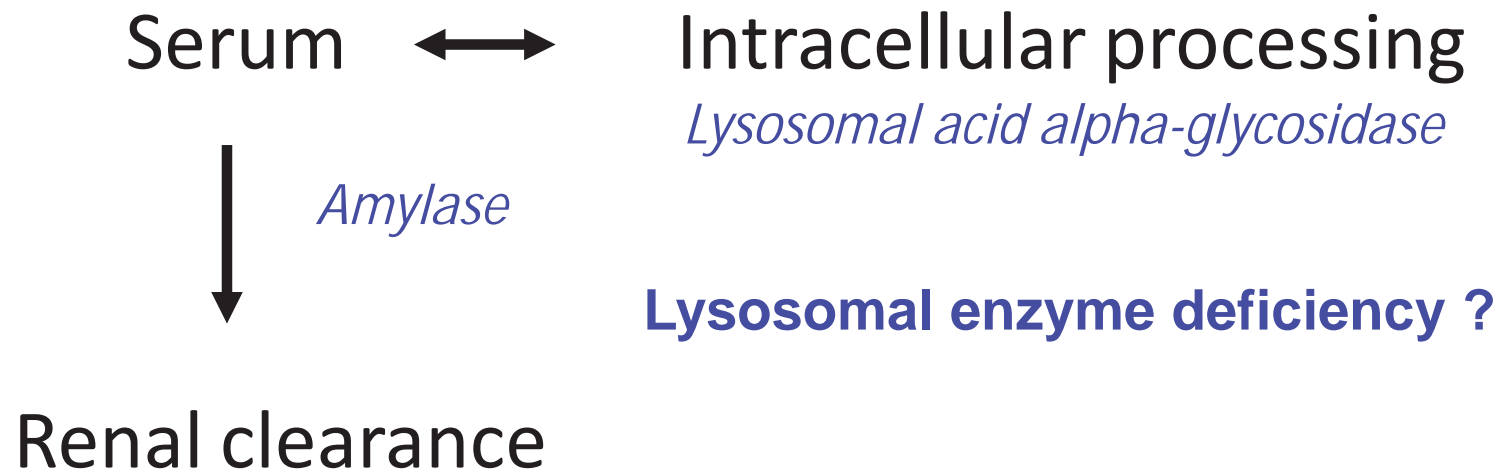


HES-reactive Vacuoles

Lipidvacuoles

*Anti-HES-Immunogold*

# HES - Metabolism



Cultured fibroblasts  
*Enzymatic activity of acid alpha-glycosidase  
reduced (50%)*

**Pompe's Disease (Glycogen storage disease),  
heterozygous carrier status**

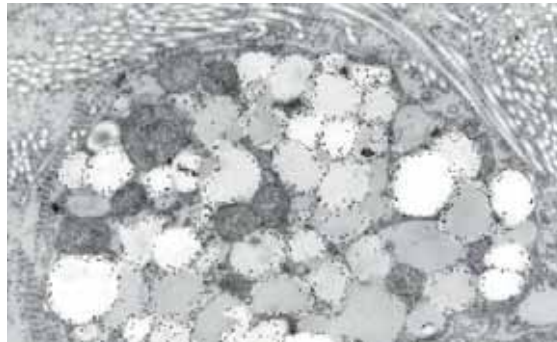
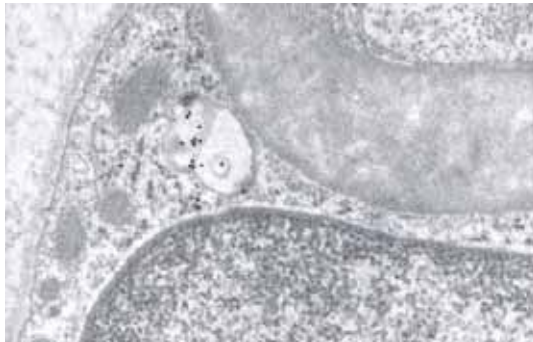
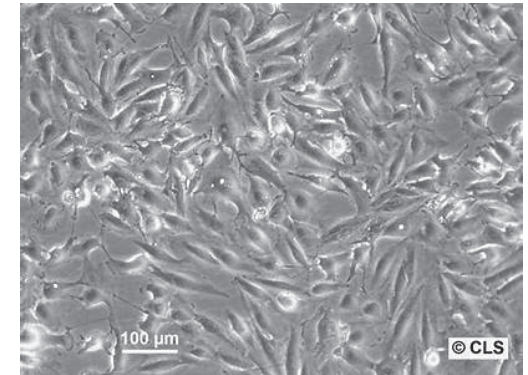
Residual enzyme activity prevents glycogen accumulation and  
clinical symptoms (heart, skeletal muscles)

Impaired lysosomal degradation of HES →

Endothelial cells – lymphedema  
Macrophages – degenerative changes  
→ Xanthomatization

P. Kiehl †, D. Metze, et al,  
Br J Dermatol 138:672-677, 1998

# HES-associated pruritus with periorbital swelling in Pompe's disease



*Enzymatic activity of acid  
alpha-glycosidase*

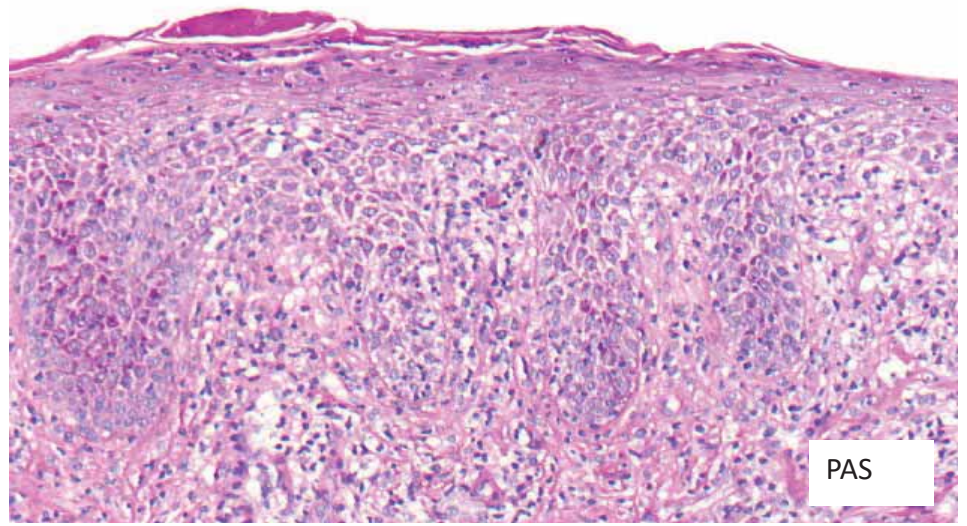
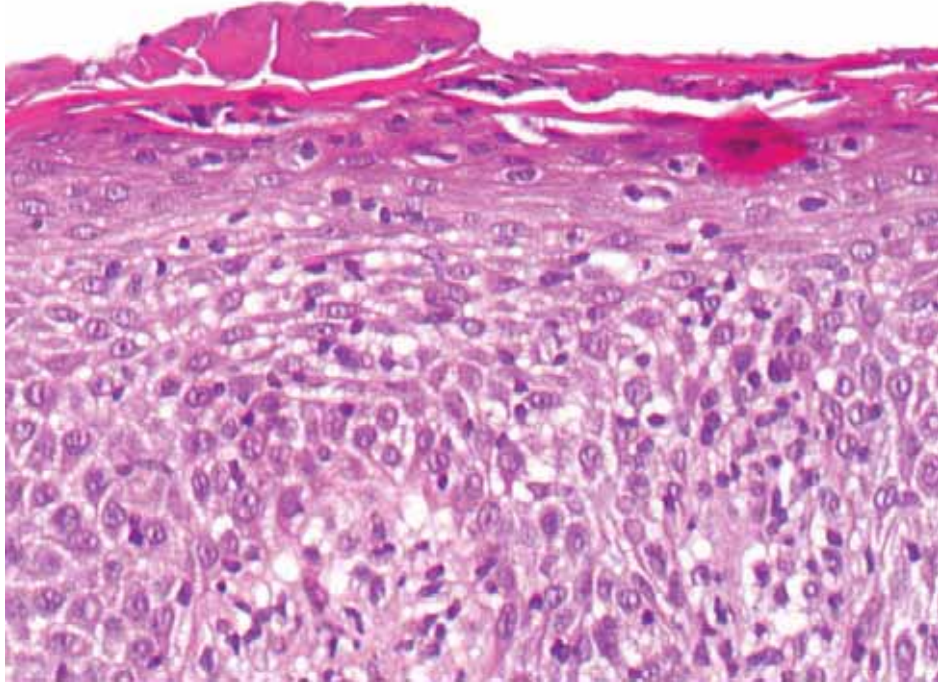
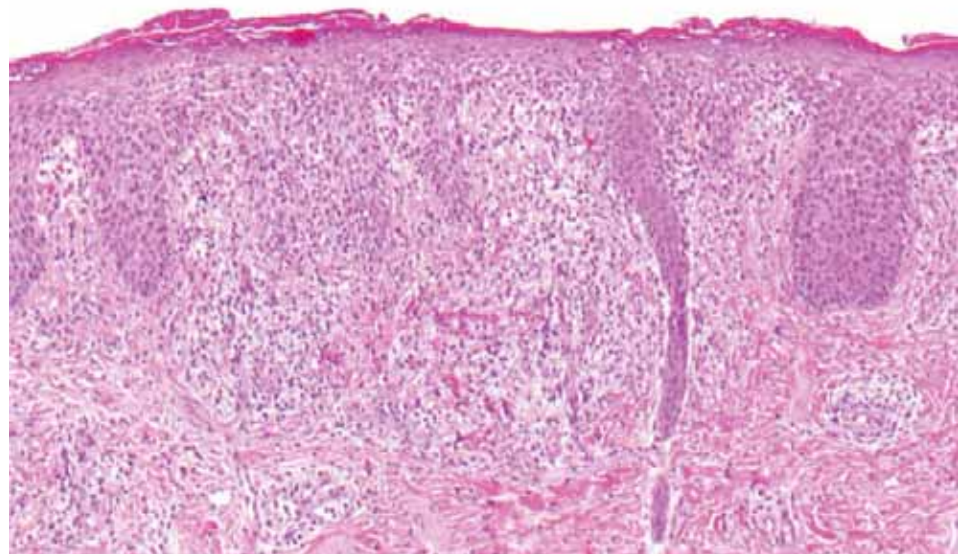
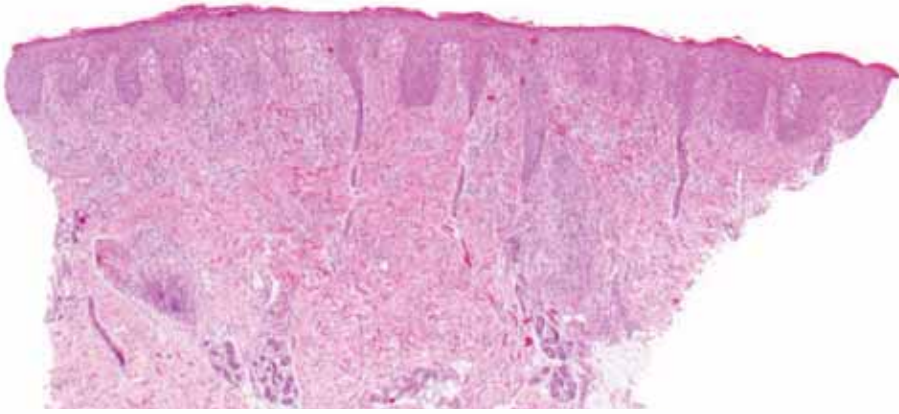
10-month-old infant, female, family history unremarkable, parents non-consanguineous

Erythroderma with translucent and fine scaling, double-sided syndactyly, failure to thrive

Immunodeficiency with recurrent systemic infections (influenza, pyelonephritis, pneumonia, *S. aureus* and *E. coli* sepsis), signs of immune dysregulation, increased serum IgE, macrophage-activation, hepatosplenomegaly

3 months later patient died of *P. aeruginosa* sepsis.



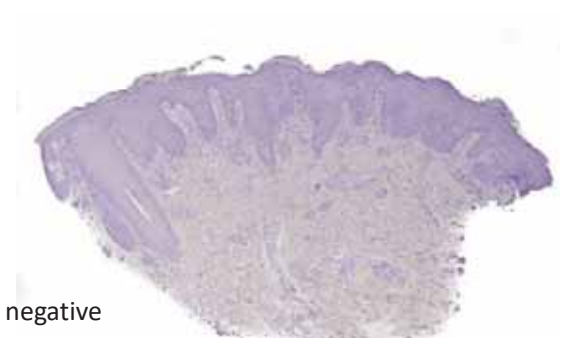


PAS

# Psoriasiform Pattern in a Newborn/Child

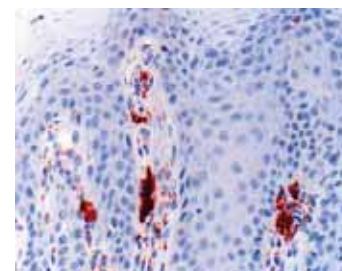
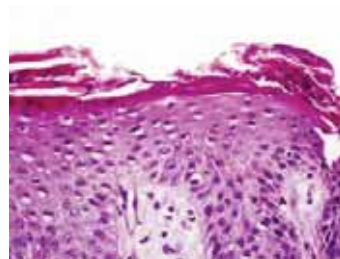
- Comèl-Netherton Syndrome

IHC for Lympho-Epithelial Kazal Type Inhibitor (LEKTI)

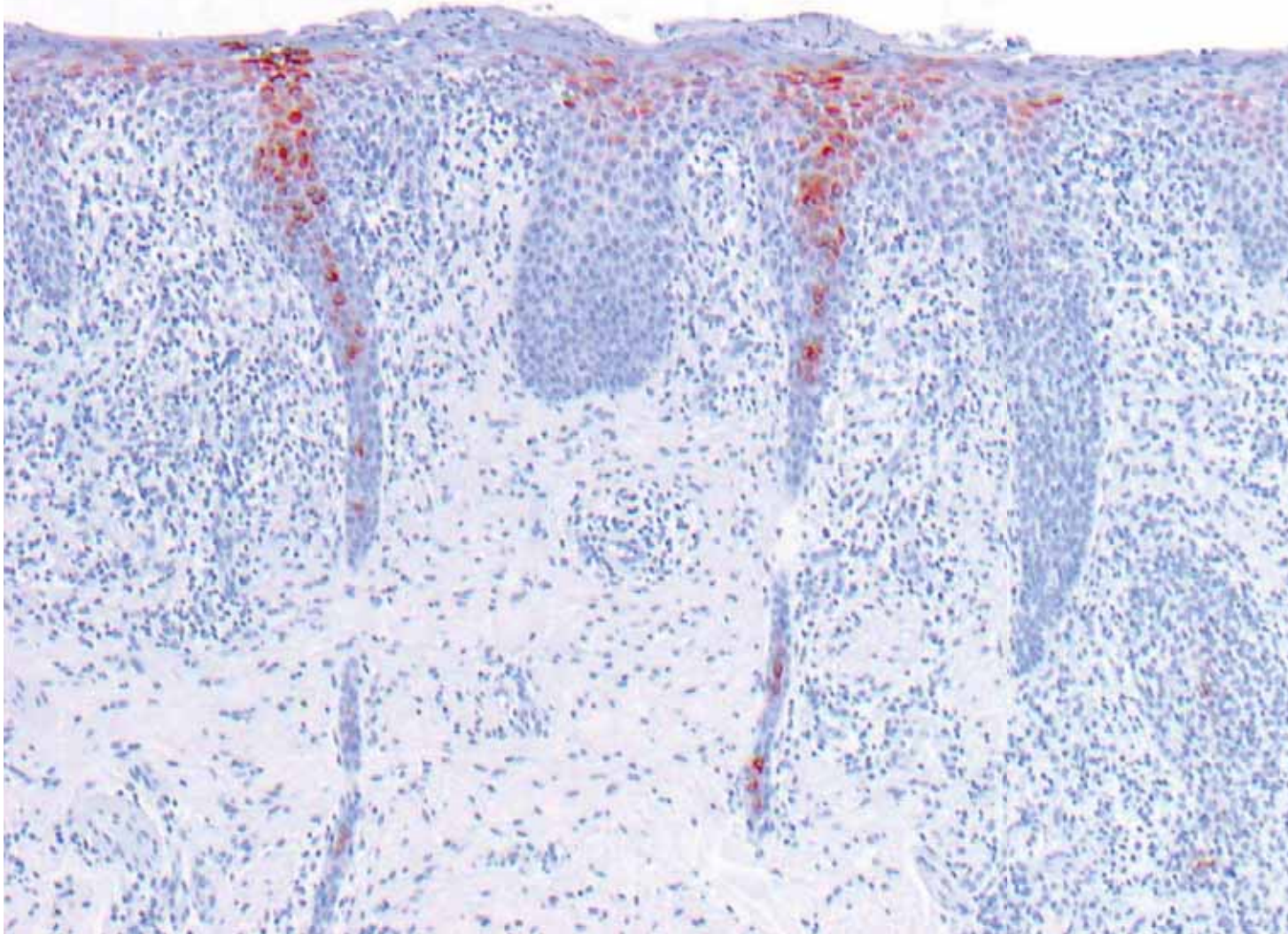


- CHILD Syndrome

IHC for Adipophyllin



LEKTI pos – r/o Netherton Syndrom







# MALT1 deficiency mimicking Netherton- and Omenn syndrome

H. Wiegmann; J. Reunert, D. Metzke; T. Marquardt,  
V. Kunde, S. Ehl, D. Foell, I. van den Heuven,  
V. Oji; H. Wittkowski. BJD, 2020

Department of Dermatology, Department of Pediatrics,  
Department of Pediatric Rheumatology and  
Immunology; University Hospital Muenster  
Center for Chronic Immunodeficiency, University of  
Freiburg, Germany

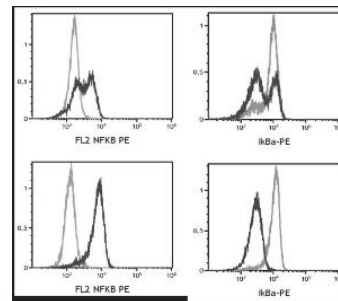
## LABORATORY

Mild B-lymphopenia, hypogammaglobulinemia, absent IgA and IgM, and absent titers for tetanus, pertussis and diphtheria after two immunizations.

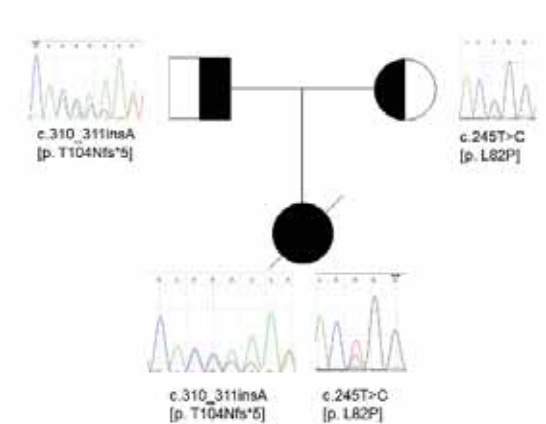
Leukocytosis (54.000/ $\mu$ l), eosinophilia (8.000/ $\mu$ l), highly increased IgE (30.000 IU/ml), thrombocytopenia.

Intermittent macrophage-activation markers: sCD25 (13.240 U/ml), ferritin (1.200  $\mu$ g/l), S100A8/A9 (62.000 ng/ml).

Hypofibrinogenemia, hypertriglyceridemia



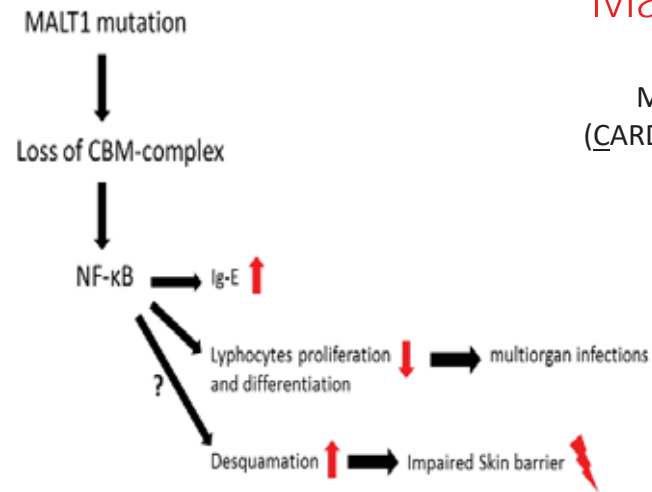
Flow cytometry analysis of NFκB activation in patient T-cells.  $5 \times 10^5$  PBMC were stimulated with PMA and ionomycin for 15 minutes at 37°C. Analysis of CD4+ cells in comparison to a healthy control revealed deficient phosphorylation of NF-κB p65 (left panels) and impaired degradation of IκB (right panels) in patient cells.



Family tree and results of the Sanger sequencing. Two compound heterozygous loss of function mutations in MALT1 (Exon 2 c.245T>C, Exon 2 c.310\_311insA). Both parents heterozygous for one of the variants.

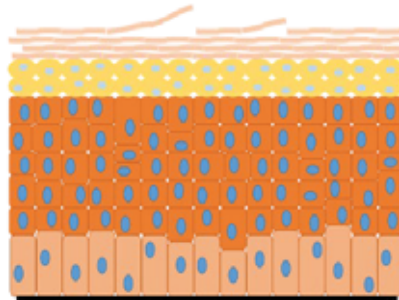
No mutation of SPINK5 and RAG1/RAG2 Mutation

## Malt1 Deficiency (OMIM#615468)



MALT1 proteinase is part of the CBM (CARD11-BCL10-MALT) signalosome complex that activates NF κB

Combined immunodeficiency: adaptive and innate immune responses defect



Altered epidermal differentiation

# Malt1 Deficiency (OMIM#615468)

- Loss-of-function mutations in MALT1 gene encoding proteinase MALT1
  - reduced NF- $\kappa$ B activation
  - defect adaptive and innate immune responses (combined immunodeficiency)
  - dysfunction of the epidermal differentiation and skin barrier
- Postpartal periodic erythroderma with scaling (rare, 3 cases)
- Failure to thrive, hypernatremic dehydration
- Immunodeficiency with recurrent systemic infections
  - Signs of immune dysregulation and macrophage-activation, increased serum IgE
- Histology: Psoriasiform Dermatitis
  - IHC: Loss of MALT1 in the epidermis
- DDX Netherton (SPINK5 Mutation)
  - Omenn syndrome (RAG1/RAG2 Mutation)

5-year-old boy

**Psoriasiform Erythroderma** (highly pruritic)

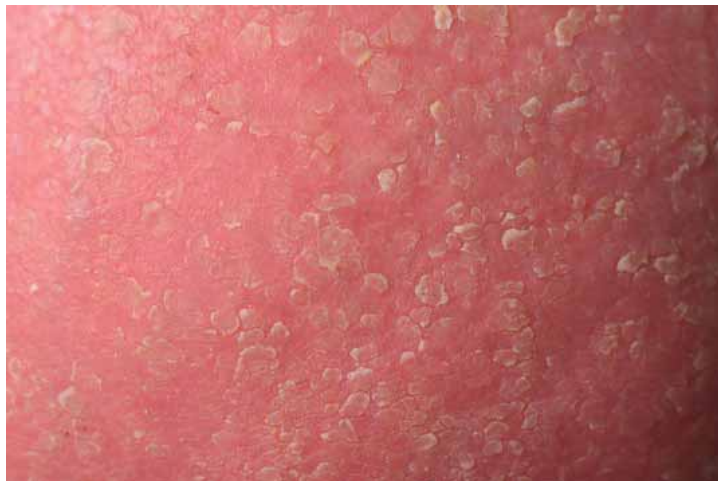
Palmoplantar Keratoderma (mild)

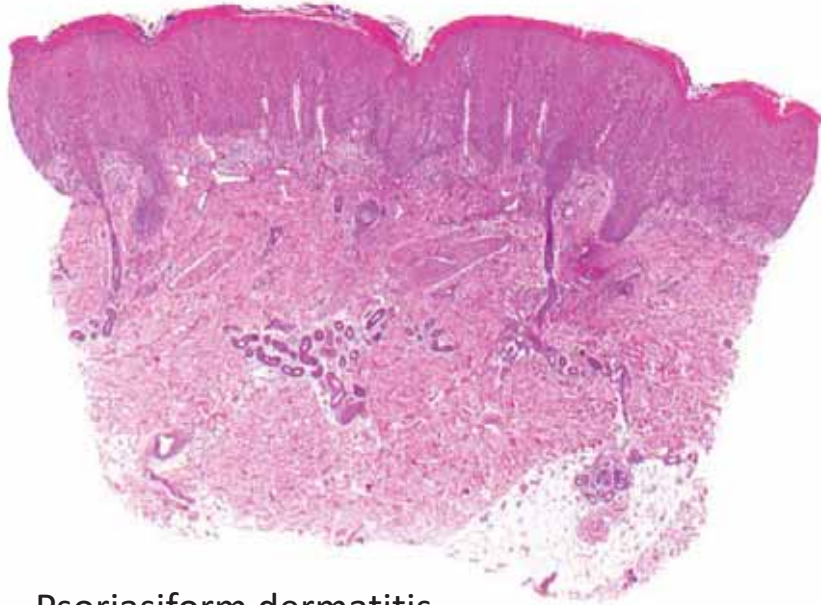
Atrichia, Nail dystrophy

**Growth retardation**

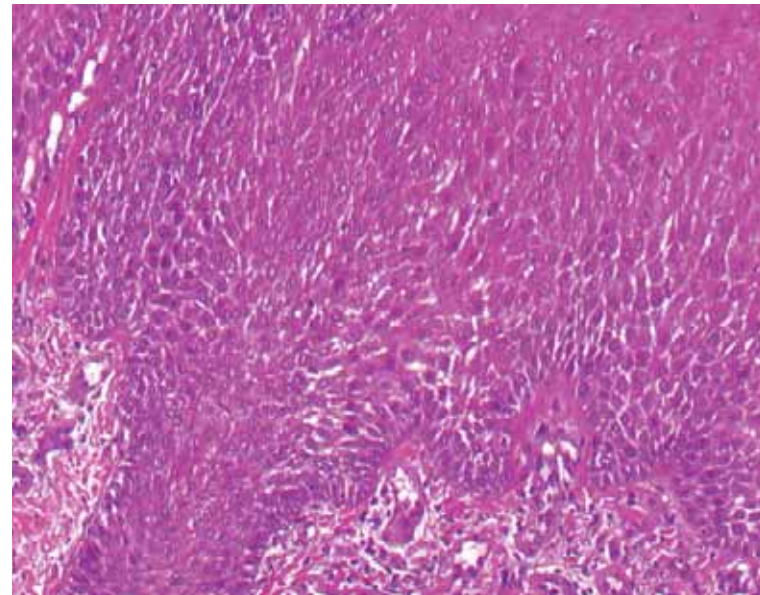
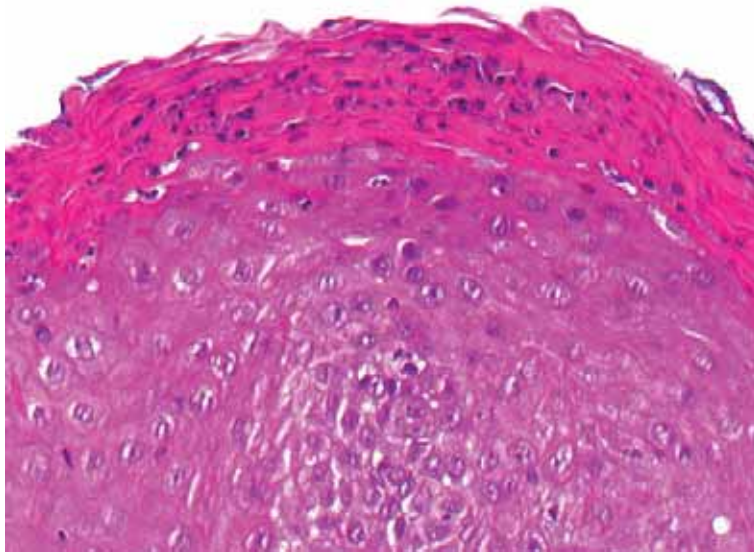
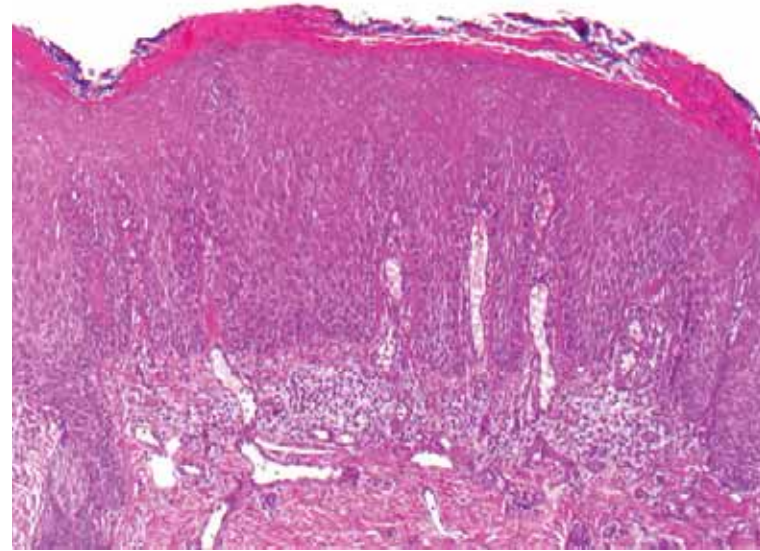
Recurrent infections and sepsis

Therapy: Ustekinumab

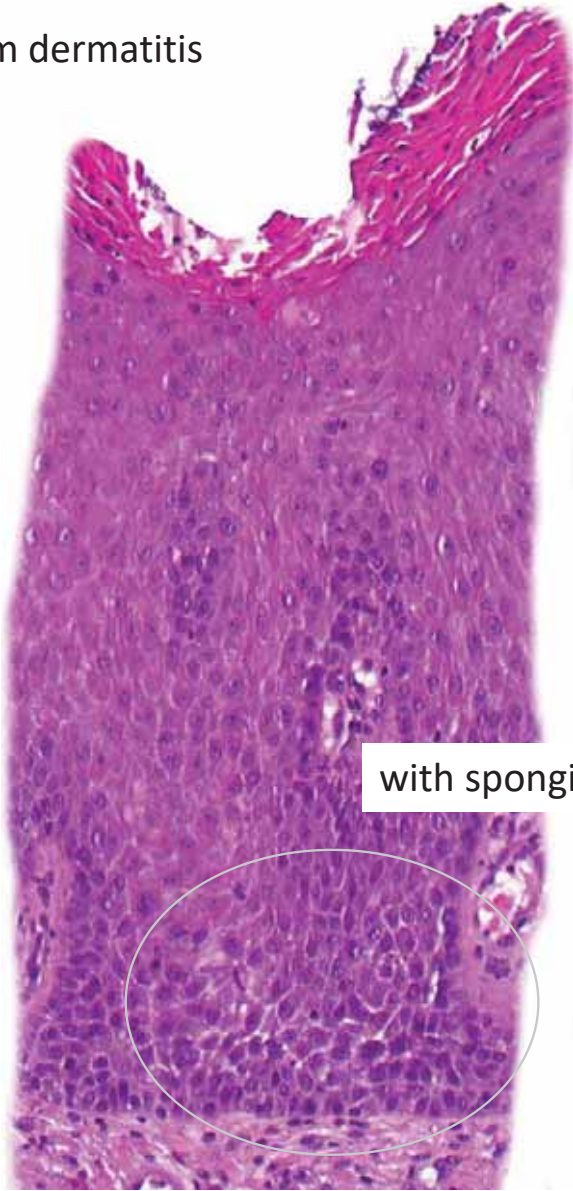




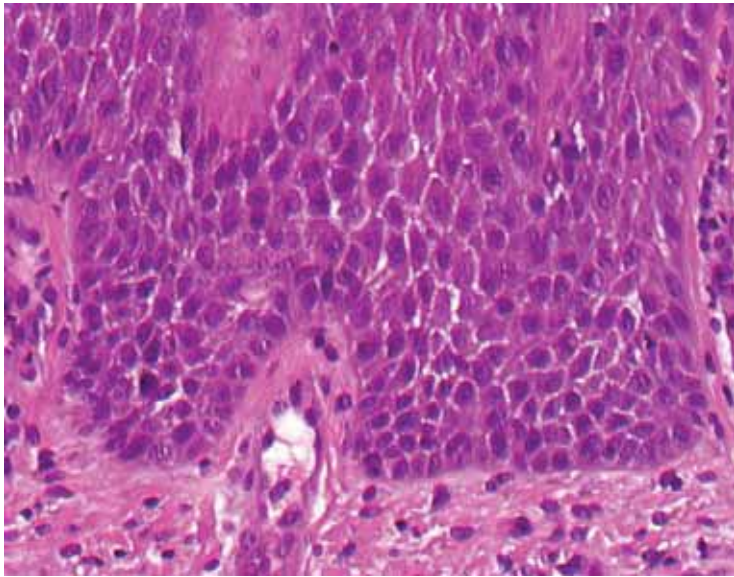
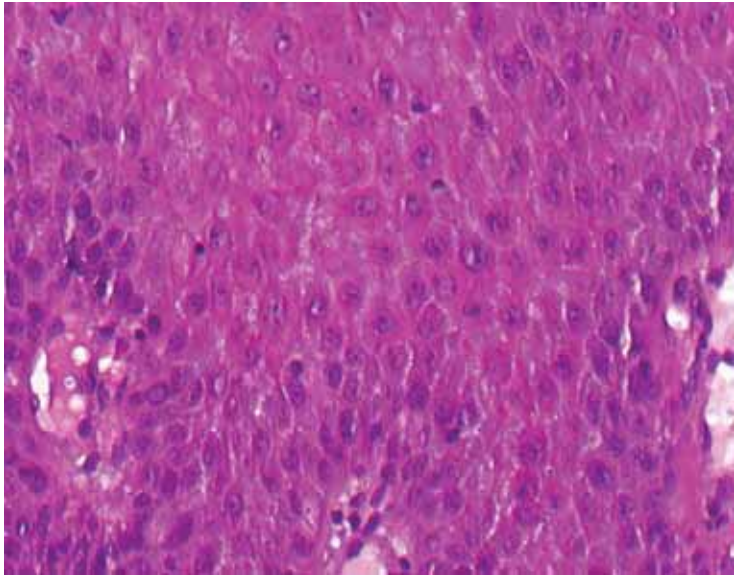
Psoriasiform dermatitis

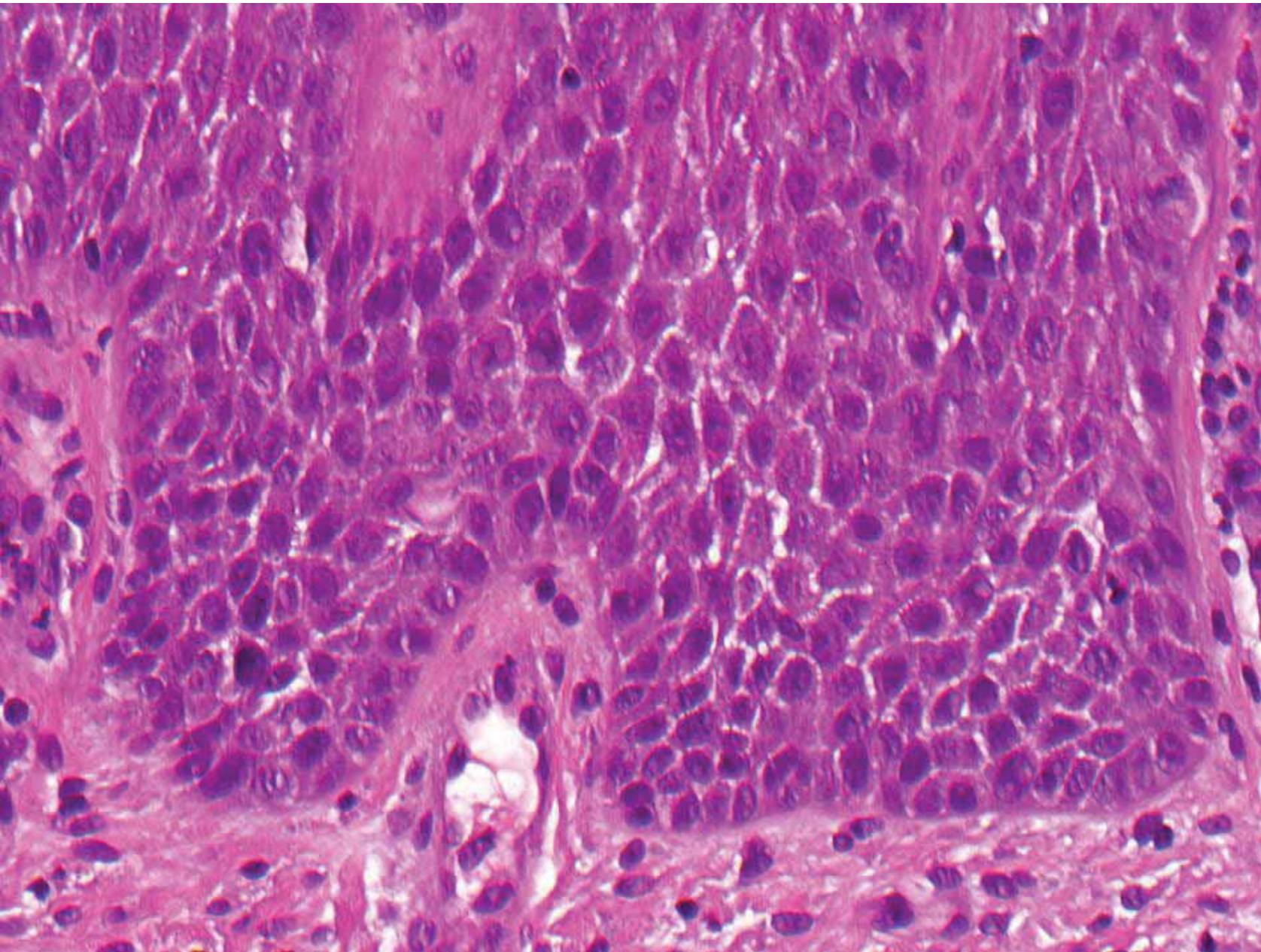


Psoriasiform dermatitis



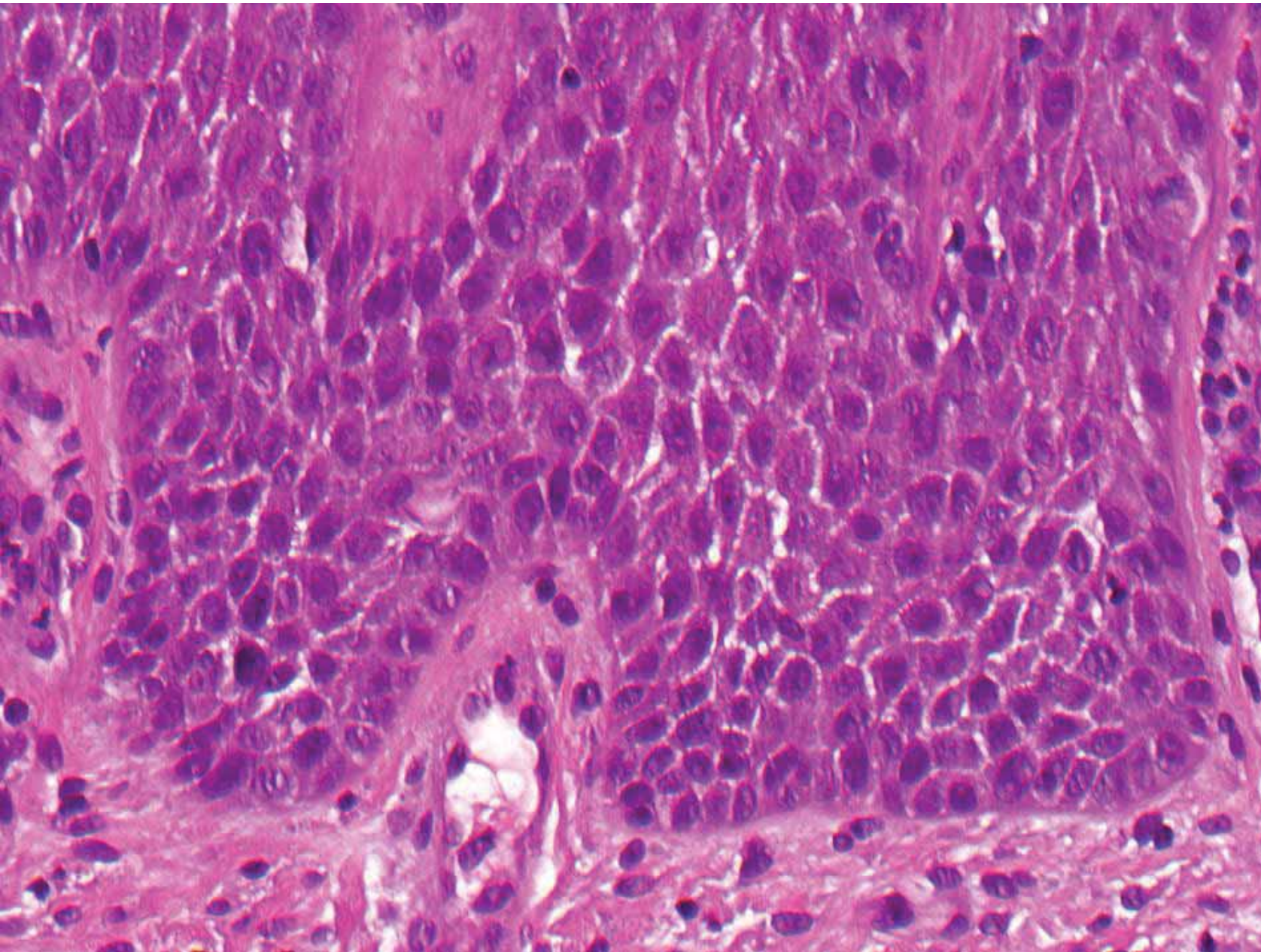
with spongiosis ?





No spongiosis  
but  
special type of acantholysis





## Desmosomal Acantholysis

Widening of  
intercellular spaces  
Hypereosinophilia of  
keratocytes

DDx Spongiosis:  
pale keratocytes,  
vesicles, crusting

# Psoriasiform Pattern in a Newborn/Child

- Comèl-Netherton Syndrome
- CHILD Syndrome
- MALT 1 Deficiency Syndrome

LEKTI

Adipophylin

MALT 1

+ Akantholysis of Desmosomal Type



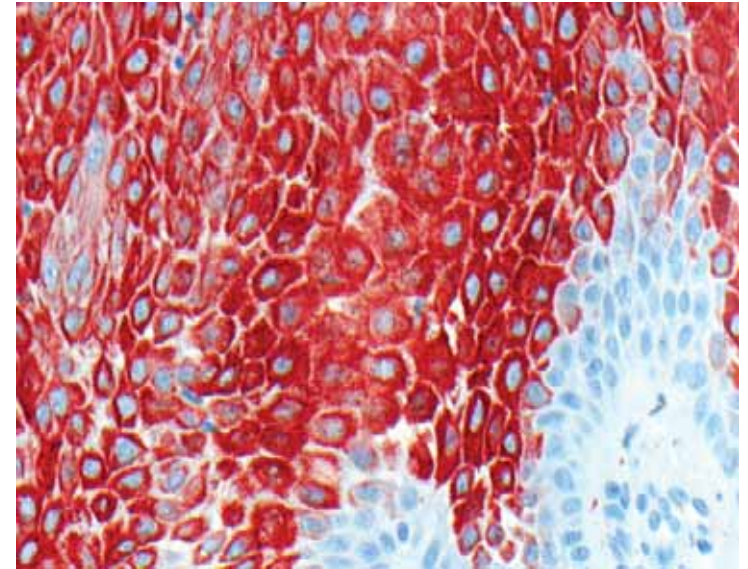
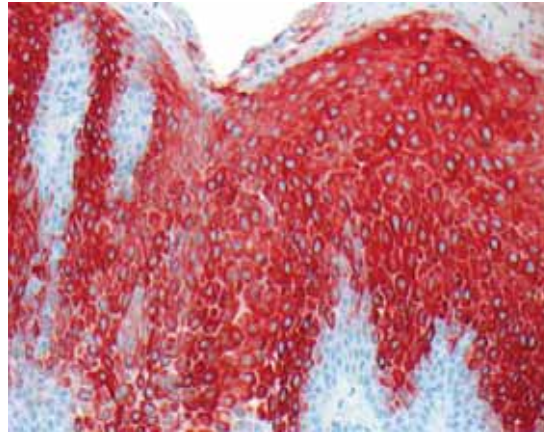
# Psoriasiform Pattern in a Newborn/Child

- Comèl-Netherton Syndrome                      LEKTI
- MALT 1 Deficiency Syndrome                      MALT 1
- CHILD Syndrome                                      Adipophylin

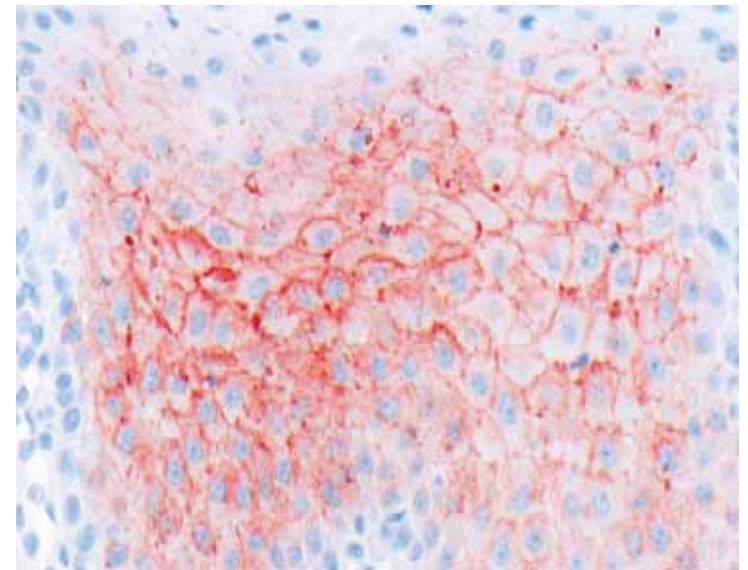
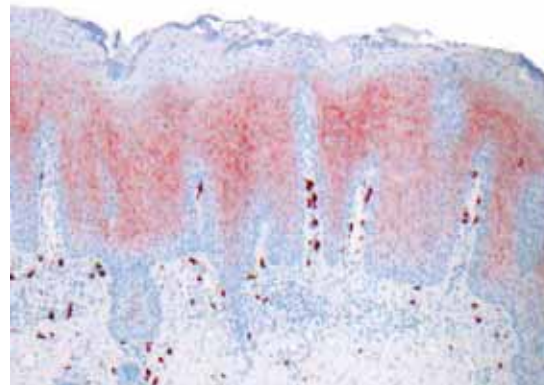
## + Akantholysis of Desmosomal Type

- **SAM Syndrome**                                      Desmoglein, Desmoplakin
- Peeling skin disease                                      Corneodesmosin
- Ectodermal dysplasia-  
skin fragility syndrome  
(McGrath Syndrome)                                      Plakophilin

Hyperproliferative Keratin 16  
positiv



Desmoglein weak  
but regular



Desmoplakin:  
dominant missense mutation  
c.1748C>Tp.L583P

J. Fischer, Freiburg

## SAM-Syndrome

(Severe Dermatitis, Allergies, Metabolic wasting syndrom)

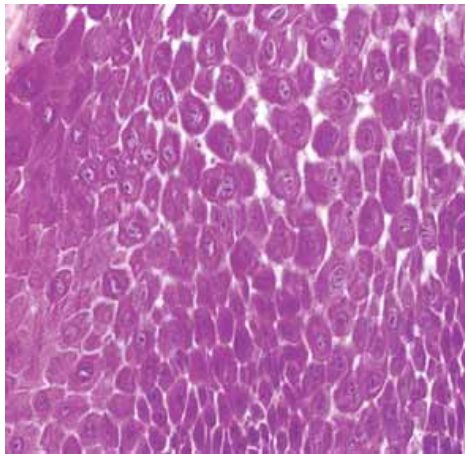
- Mutations of *Desmoglein 1* or *Desmoplakin* (OMIM 615508)
- Congenital erythroderma reminiscent of Netherton syndrome
- Hypotrichosis, Pruritus
- Food allergies, hyper IgE, eosinophilia, recurrent skin and respiratory infections, failure to thrive, growth retardation
- More variably: Pustulation, palmoplantar keratoderma, onychodystrophy, dental abnormalities, eosinophilic esophagitis, nystagmus, cardiac defects
- Therapy: Ustekinumab, TNF antagonists, Dupilimumab, Calcineurin inhibitors



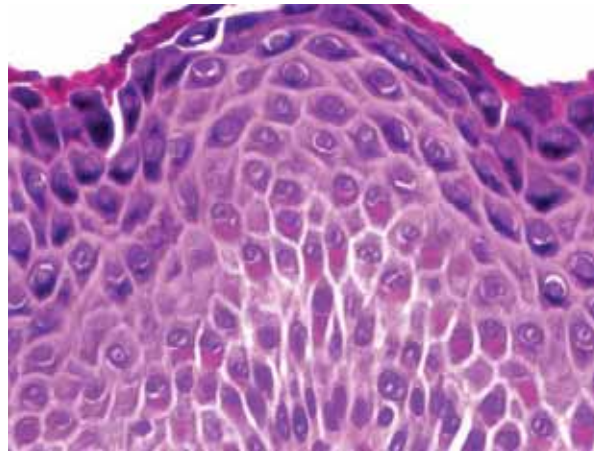
## Acantholysis of the Desmosomal Type

*(Acantholysis related to mutations of desmosomal proteins)*

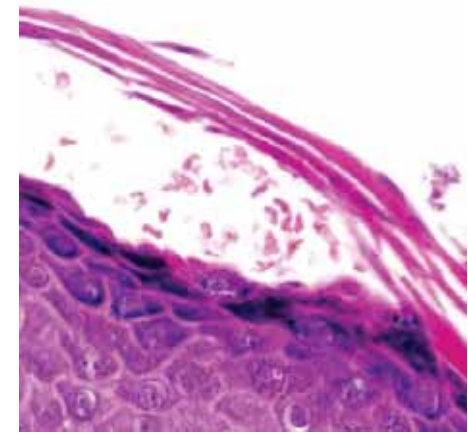
- Widening of intercellular spaces and partial dehiscence of keratinocytes with regular nuclei
- No pale keratocytes, vesiculation, crusting
- Often Hyperkeratosis and hypergranulosis (**SPPK**), psoriasiforme hyperplasia (**SAM Syndrome**)
- Hypereosinophilia and/or eosinophilic clumping of the cytoplasm (**McGrath syndrome**)
- Subcorneal variant (**Peeling skin disease**)



*Striate PPK*

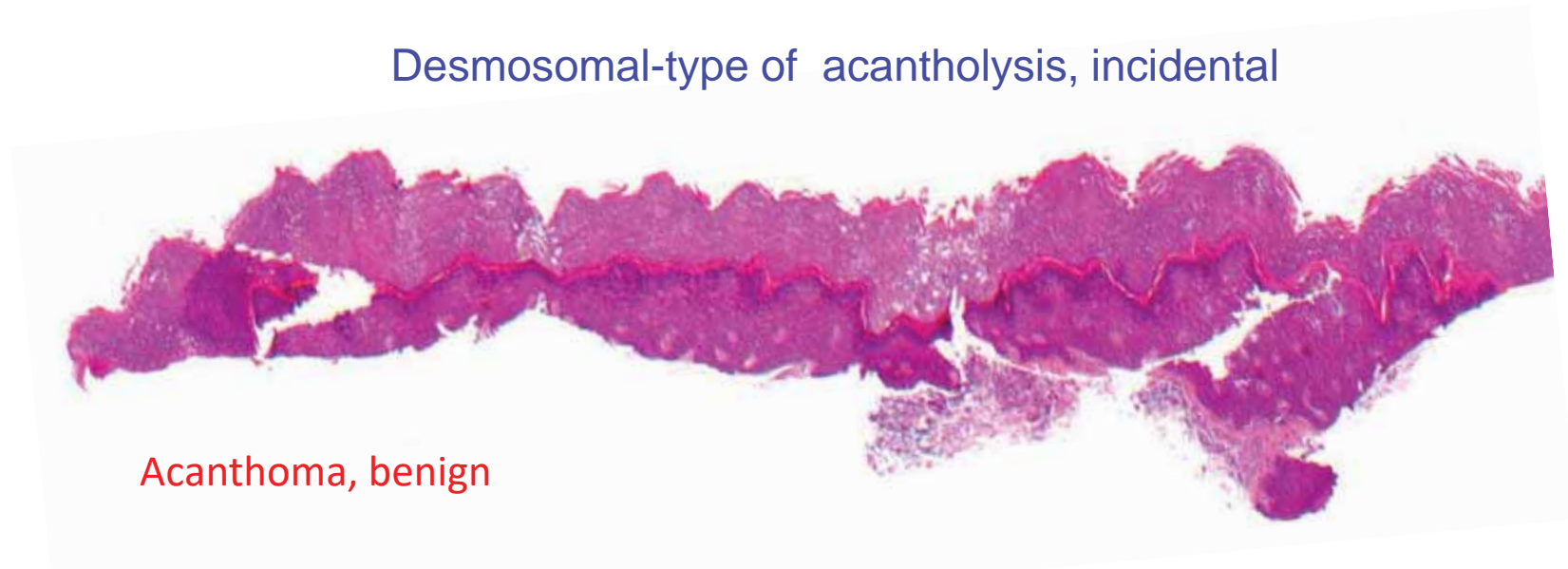


*McGrath syndrome*

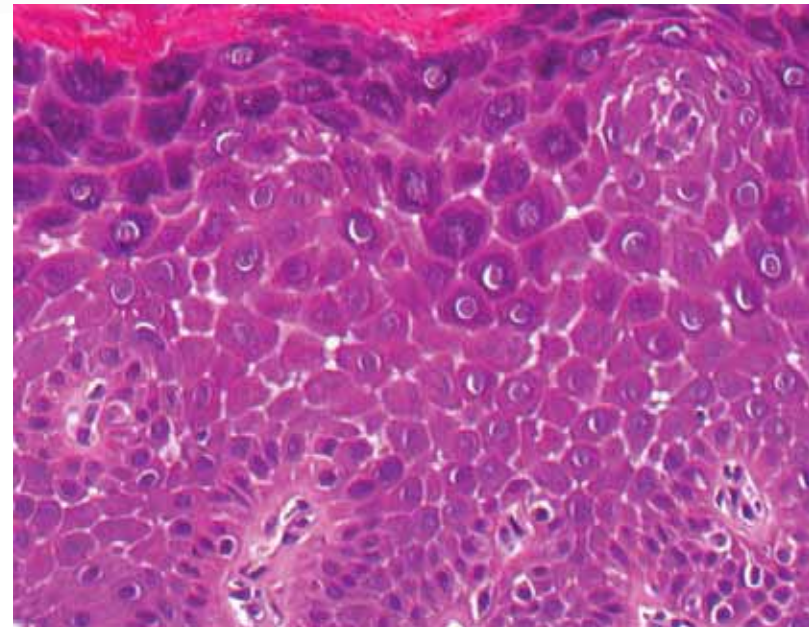
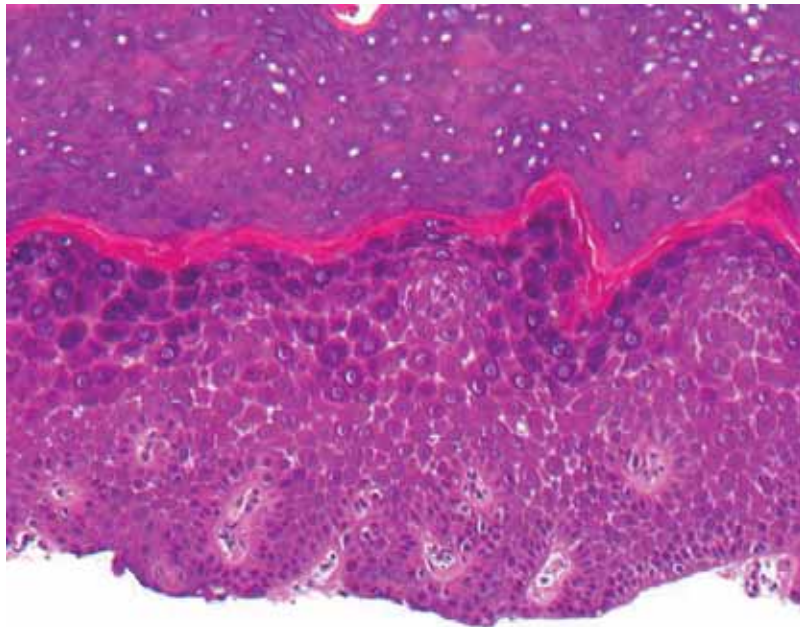


*Peeling skin disease*

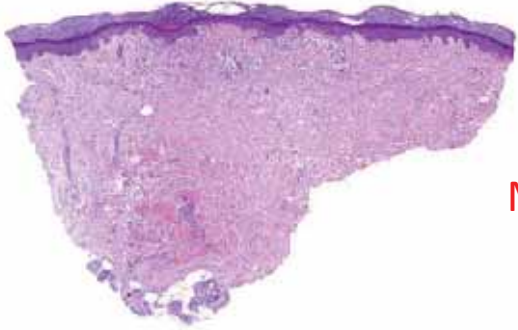
Desmosomal-type of acantholysis, incidental



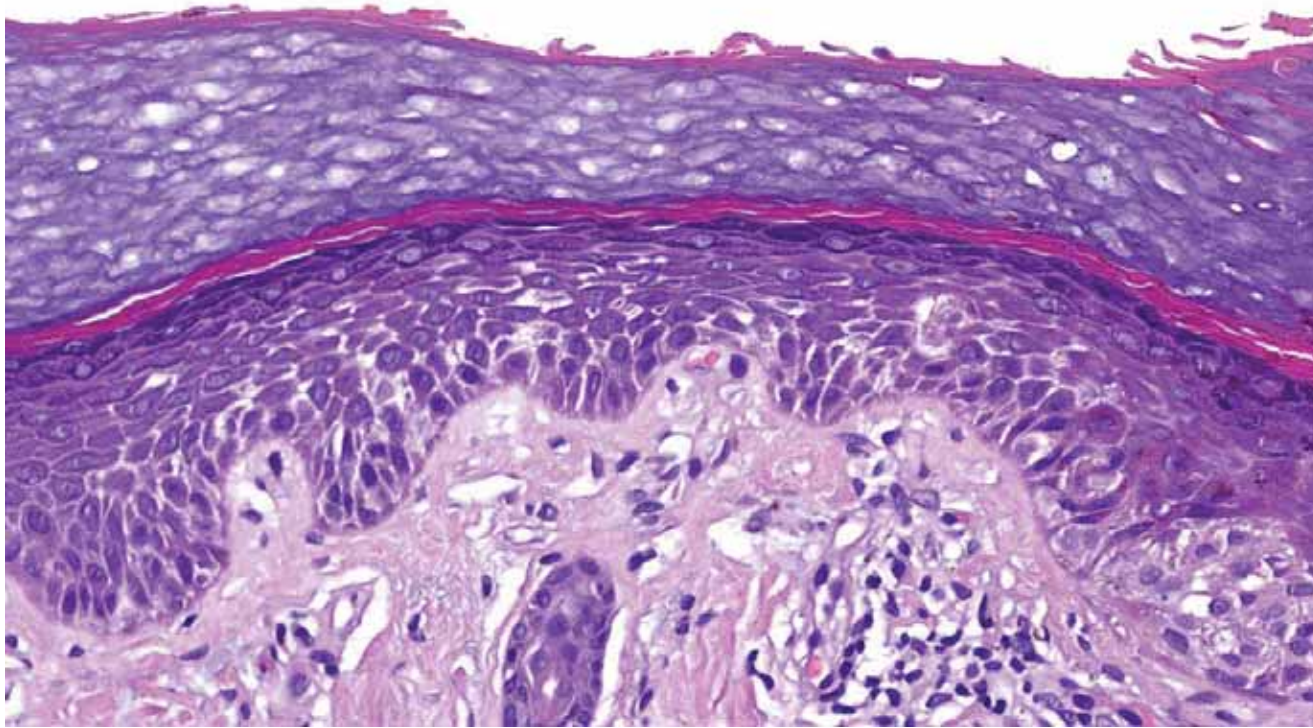
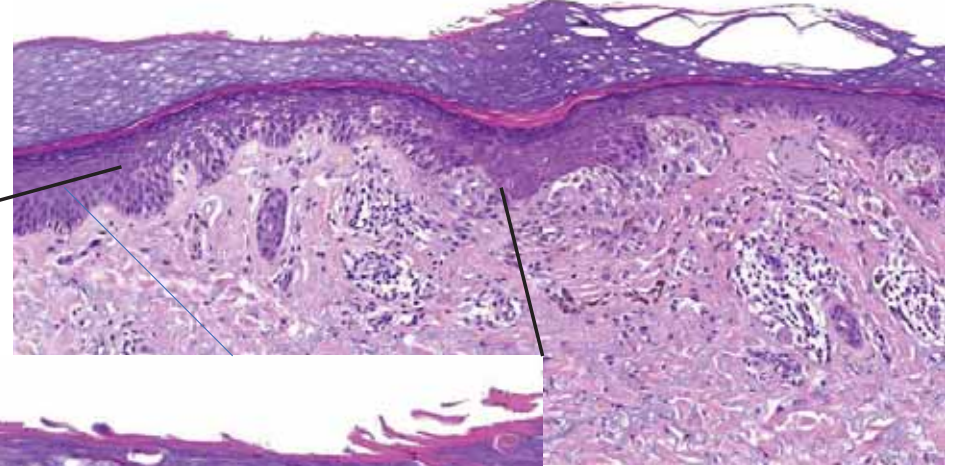
Acanthoma, benign



Desmosomal-type of acantholysis, incidental



Melanocytic nevus

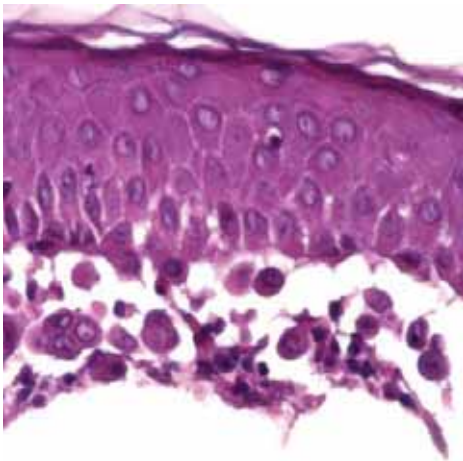




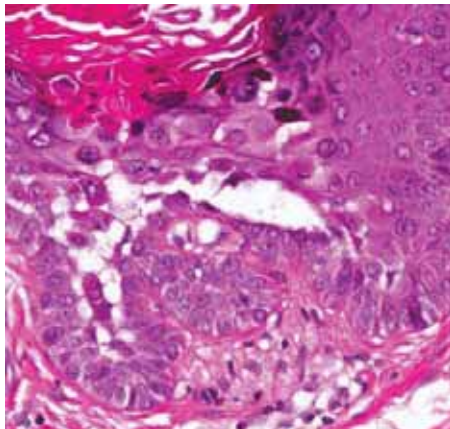
# Acantholysis of the Desmosomal Type

(DDx other types of acantholysis )

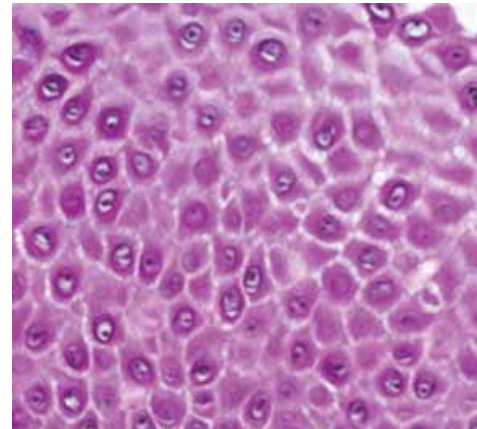
- **Pemphigus**: blistering with intact roof, roundish keratinocytes (fully acantholytic cells)
- **Darier**: pyknotic nuclei and hypereosinophilic cytoplasm (Dyskeratosis)
- **Hailey-Hailey**: perinuclear hypereosinophilia and pale periphery
- **Herpes and other viral infections**: ballooning (intracellular edema)
- (Eczema: spongiosis, vesicles, parakeratosis, crusting)



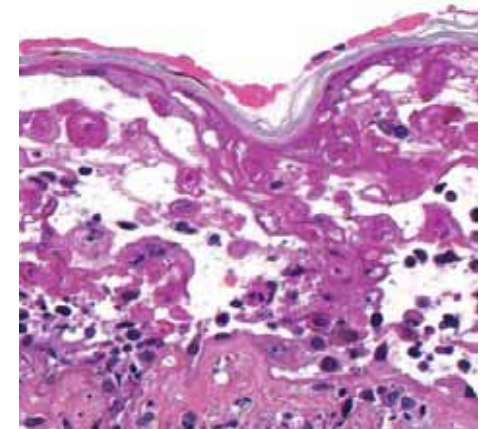
*Pemphigus*



*M. Darier*



*M. Hailey-Hailey*

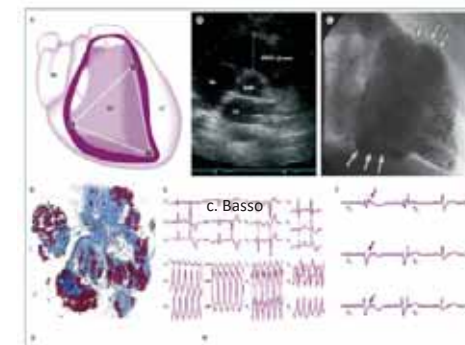
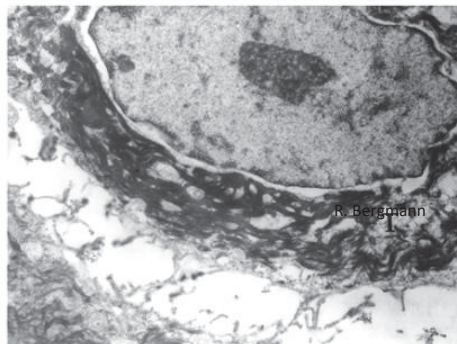
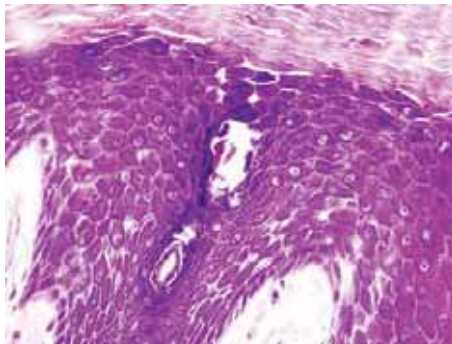


*Herpes*

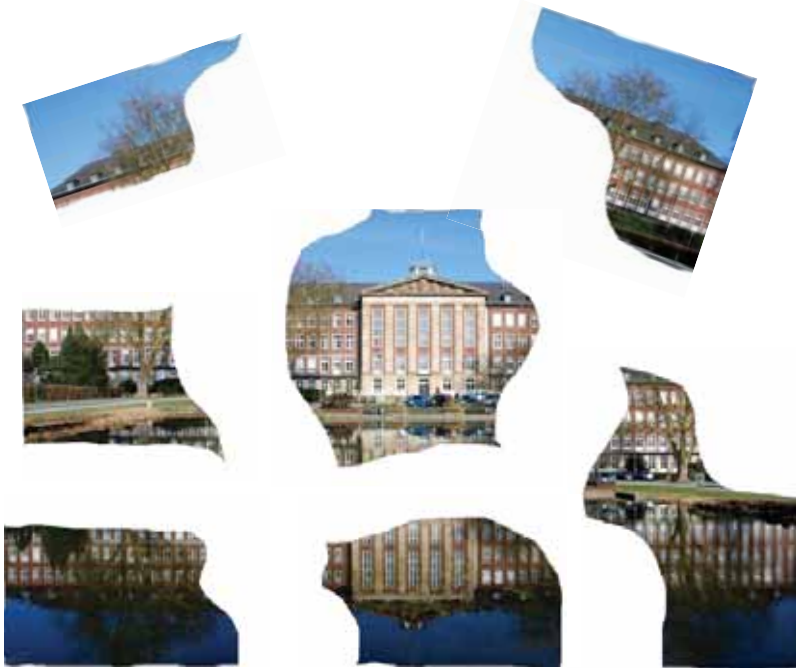


Acantholysis of the Desmosomal Type  
inflammatory, non inflammatory  
syndromic, non-syndromic, incidental

Keratosis palmoplantaris areata et striata (SPPK, type I,II)  
Carvajal-Huerta-, Naxos-Syndrome,  
SAM-, McGrath-, Peeling skin-syndrome, ...



Thank you for your attention



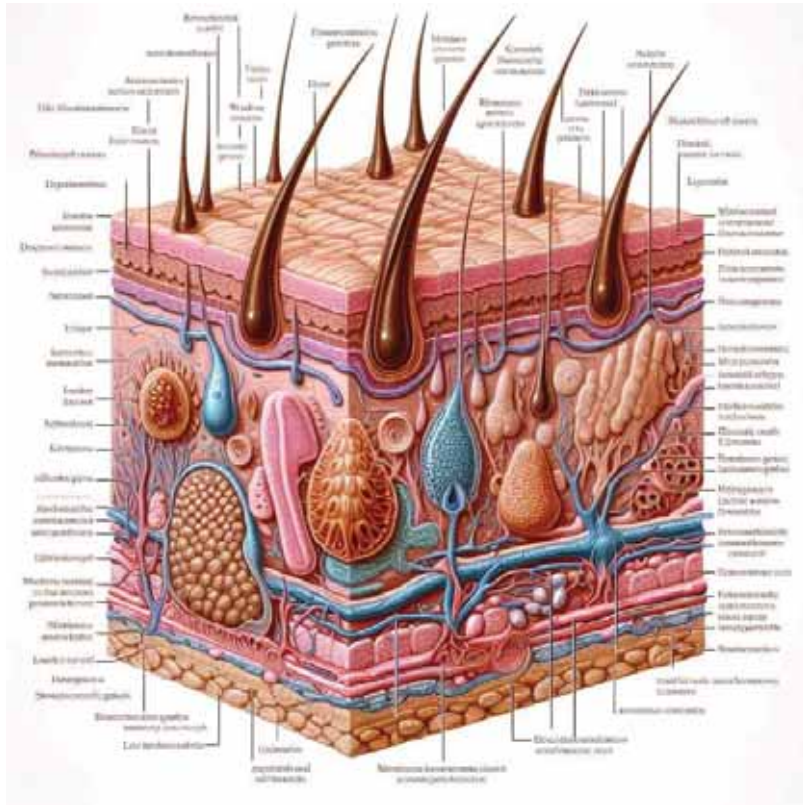
Clinical-pathologic correlation



Klinik für Hautkrankheiten, Universitätsklinikum Münster (UKM)  
*Internationales Ausbildungszentrum für Dermatopathologie der ICDP und UEMS*



## The Future



„Anatomy of the skin“

AI, Image Generator, 2023



„Santa Clause uses the microscope“

AI, Image Generator, 2023

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September 5-7, 2024

## International Board Certification in Dermatopathology, Frankfurt

October 5, 2024



## 28th Joint Meeting of the ISDP

Orlando, USA

March 5-6, 2025