



*Pemphigus Vulgaris*

Pemphigus vulgaris develops primarily in older individuals, presenting with large and flaccid bullae. They

*Histopathology.*

It is important that early blisters, preferably small ones, are selected for biopsy.





purpose, a smear is taken from the underside of the roof and from the base of an early, freshly opened b





Because acantholytic keratinocytes are occasionally seen in various nonacantholytic vesiculobullous or

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*Immunofluorescence (IF) Testing*

꠆ The edge of a blister with intact surrounding normal skin, uninvolved skin adjacent

remission may be a good prognostic indicator . At this time, DIF testing is incorrectly thought by most to

of false positives; however, false positives may occur. On occasion, it may be difficult to distinguish inter



and epidermis adjacent to ulcers secondary to a number of disorders may have squamous intercellular s

IgG due to the presence of serum in the intercellular substance. Often, IgM, IgA, fibrinogen, and albumin





diagnostic tool. For IIF testing, unfixed frozen sections of guinea pig esophagus, monkey esophagus, or

human skin are used as substrate. In general, monkey esophagus is the best substrate for IIF tests. Circ

IgG autoantibody is demonstrated in the squamous intercellular substance in 80% to 90% of cases , and

titer correlates with disease activity. False-positive IIF tests occur. In a series of 1,500 patients with circ

*vitro*                      deposition in stratified squamous epithelium in the absence of pemphigus have



bullous pemphigoid, cicatricial pemphigoid, and lichen planus and in patients with antibodies directed ag

blood groups A and B. Such antibodies are present in low titer and are thought to be nonpathogenic.

Antidesmoglein autoantibodies are sometimes found in patients with no bullous disease. For example, th

been found in patients with silicosis and in relatives of patients with pemphigus vulgaris .











*Pathogenesis*

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Compelling evidence has accumulated that IgG autoant

are thought to play an important role in acantholysis. Although complement fixation by pemphigus antibodies





promote acantholysis, acantholysis occurs in experimental systems in the absence of complement. The

*Ultrastructural Study* .

The intercellular cement substance, or glycocalyx, is pa

processes that often interdigitate with one another. All of the early ultrastructural changes in pemphigus

*Differential Diagnosis* . In early blisters that are free of secondary changes, suc

















