







Actinic prurigo is a chronic, recurrent, pruritic skin condition characterized by the presence of actinic keratosis-like lesions on the face, neck, and hands. The condition is most commonly seen in individuals of Native American descent, particularly in the Great Plains region. The pathogenesis is thought to be related to a genetic defect in the DNA repair mechanism, specifically a deficiency in the xeroderma pigmentosum C (XP-C) protein. This leads to an accumulation of DNA damage, particularly in the form of cyclobutane pyrimidine dimers (CPDs), which are highly mutagenic and can lead to the development of skin cancer. The clinical features of actinic prurigo include the presence of actinic keratosis-like lesions, which are characterized by the presence of red, scaly, and crusted plaques on the sun-exposed areas of the skin. These lesions are often accompanied by intense pruritus (itching) and may be associated with other skin conditions, such as alopecia and vitiligo. The condition is typically diagnosed based on the clinical presentation and the presence of actinic keratosis-like lesions. Treatment options include the use of topical retinoids, such as tretinoin, and the use of photoprotective measures, such as the use of broad-spectrum sunscreens and the avoidance of sun exposure. In severe cases, systemic retinoids, such as isotretinoin, may be used. The prognosis for actinic prurigo is generally good, with most patients responding well to treatment. However, the condition is chronic and may recur, particularly in individuals with a history of sun exposure.