Dermatitis herpetiformis (Duhring's disease)
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Dermatitis herpetiformis is an intensely pruritic, chronic recurrent dermatitis that has a slight male predilection.
Histopathology
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The typical histologic features are best observed in erythematous skin adjacent to early blisters. In these zones, the rete ridges lose their attachment to the dermis, and the blisters then become unilocular and clinically apparent. At this time, the characteristic papillary microabscesses may be observed at the blister periphery. For this reason, the inclusion of perivesicular skin in the biopsy specimen is of
Dermatitis herpetiformis (Duhring's disease)
utmost value. The papillary dermis beneath the papillae may have a relatively intense inflammatory infiltrate.

*IF Testing*
In 1967, Cormane described the presence of granular deposits of IgA within the dermal papillae in both lesional and non-lesional skin. The importance of this finding lies in the fact that a positive direct immunofluorescence (DIF) test is a sensitive and specific diagnostic tool for dermatitis herpetiformis. If a patient presents with erythema, because false-negative results may occur when blistered or inflamed skin is evaluated. The presence of IgA deposits in the dermal papillae is a strong indication that the patient does not have dermatitis herpetiformis.
Circulating IgA antibodies that react against reticulin, smooth muscle endomysium, the dietary antigen gluten (gliadin) have been detected in the serum of patients. These antibodies are thought to be involved in the pathogenesis of dermatitis herpetiformis.

Pathogenesis

Three important findings must be considered in the pathogenesis of dermatitis herpetiformis.
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spruelike changes on jejunal biopsy. Patients with celiac disease develop IgA autoantibodies to tissue transglutaminase, ... dermal-bound IgA immune precipitates in dermatitis herpetiform is have been shown to contain epidermal transglutaminase.
The IgA deposition results in activation of the complement system followed by chemotaxis of neutrophils.
Ultrastructural Study

The changes in dermatitis herpetiformis resemble those observed in the inflammatory bullae of bullous pemphigoid.
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