



# Connective tissue disorders

- Lupus erythematosus
- Scleroderma
- Dermatomyositis, polymyositis
- Overlap syndromes

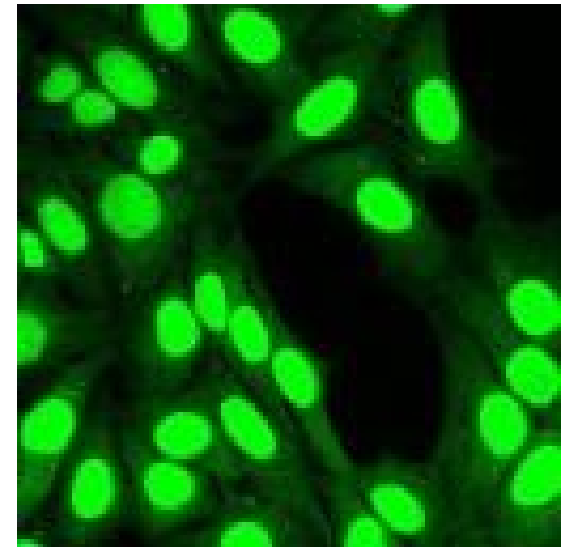
# Lupus erythematosus

- ***systemic lupus erythematosus*** - SLE
- ***chronic cutaneous lupus erythematosus*** – CCLE
- ***subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus*** – SCLE
- *neonatal LE*
- *drug induced ( hydralazine, sulfonamides)*

# ***Systemic lupus erythematosus***

## **- SLE**

- ARA criteria:
- malar rash
- discoid lesions
- photosensitivity
- oral lesions
- arthritis non-erosive
- serositis
- neurologic disorders
- lupus nephritis ( proteinuria 0,5g/d)
- hematologic disorders
- immunologic disorders ( LE cells, ANA ● ⊙ , anti dsDNA, Sm antigen, histones etc.)



# SYSTEMIC LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

## SLICC Diagnostic Criteria :

CLINICAL CRITERIA	IMMUNOLOGIC
1. Acute cutaneous lupus	1. ANA
2. <b>Chronic cutaneous lupus</b>	2. Anti-DNA
3. <b>Oral or nasal ulcers</b>	3. Anti-Sm
4. Non-scarring alopecia	4. Antiphospholipid Ab
5. Arthritis	5. Low Complement (C3, C4, CH50)
6. Serositis	6. Direct Coombs' test
7. <b>Renal dysfunction</b>	
8. Neurologic dysfunction	
9. Hemolytic anaemia	
10. Leukopenia	
11. Thrombocytopenia (<100,000/mm <sup>3</sup> )	

- Occurs after sun exposure; followed by systemic manifestations within few weeks
- Localised form: malar rash
- Generalised form: can involve whole body; systemic manifestations are present

**ACUTE  
CLE**



- Subtypes include:
  1. DLE (localised or generalised)
  2. Hypertrophic DLE
  3. Lupus profundus
  4. Mucosal LE
  5. Chilblain lupus

**CHRONIC  
CLE**



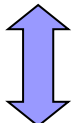
(SLICC - SLE international cooperating clinics group)



# SLE



# ***Chronic cutaneous lupus erythematosus - CCLE***

- discoid lesions – CDE –scarring -lupus
  - photosensitivity – sun exposed areas
  - hypertrophic lesions –lupus tumidus - rare
  - lupus panniculitis
  - ANA low titers or none ( $\leq 1:160$ )
  - **no systemic disease**
- 
- **symptom of systemic disease (30%)**





# Lupus panniculitis



# CDE – oral and lip involvement



# ***Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus - SCLE***

- annular lesions
- papulosquamous lesions
- photosensitivity
- sicca syndrome secondary
- ANA, anti Ro/ SSA, La/SSB
- mild systemic disease
- neonatal LE (Ro 52 kD)







# ***Lupus erythematosus***

Therapy:

antimalarial drugs (hydroxychloroquine)

corticosteroids

immunosuppressives (cyclophosphamide, cyclosporine,  
MTX, azathioprine)

antiinflammatory drugs

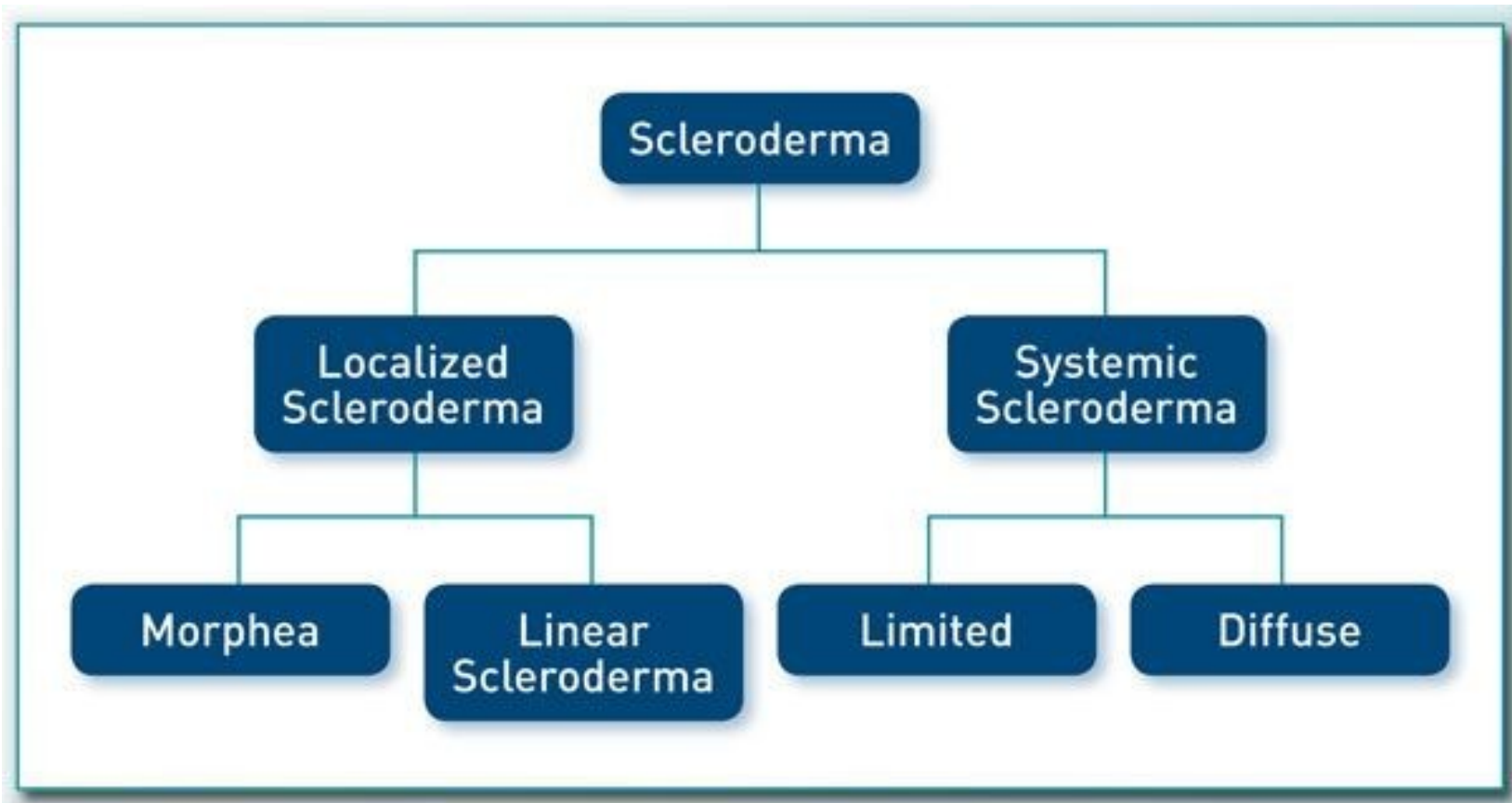
UVA, UVB sunscreens

plasmapheresis, pulse therapy etc.

Belimumab (BAFF)

# ***Scleroderma***

- vascular changes – fibroplastic factors activation
- changes in collagen synthesis
- immunological changes –
  - humoral (anti Scl70, ANA 🎱, anti centromere ACA)
  - cellular





# Systemic sclerosis - scleroderma

ARA criteria:

- proximal scleroderma
- bilateral lung interstitial fibrosis
- fingertip changes DUC digital ulcerations
- sclerodactyly

other signs:

- Raynaud 's phenomenon
- esophageal changes
- renal disease
- pulmonary hypertension
- pericardial effusion



# Scleroderma



# CREST syndrome – limited scleroderma

- C alcinosis
- R aynaud
- E sophageal changes
- S cleroderma
- T eleangiectasias
- anti centromere antibody

# Systemic scleroderma

## Therapy:

- corticosteroids
- immunosuppressives
- antimalarials
- d-penicillamine, penicillin
- vasoactive and rheological drugs (pentoxifylline, prostavasin)
- calcium antagonists – nifedipine
- endothelin receptor antagonist – bosentan
- phosphodiesterase 5 antagonists - sildenafil
- ACE inhibitors - kidneys
- prokinetic drugs, antacids
- physiotherapy

# Localized scleroderma

- morphea
- guttate
- linear
- generalized (pansclerotic morphea)
- subcutaneous – eosinophilic fasciitis
- ANA in low titers or none
- no systemic disease
- infections – late stage Lyme disease



Lilac ring

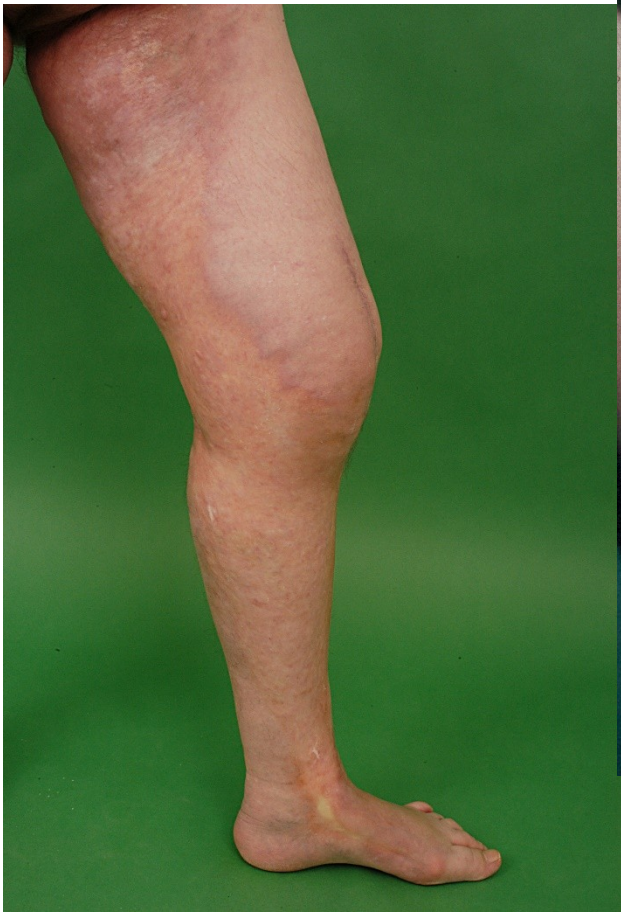


# Localized scleroderma





# Linear scleroderma





# Localized scleroderma - therapy

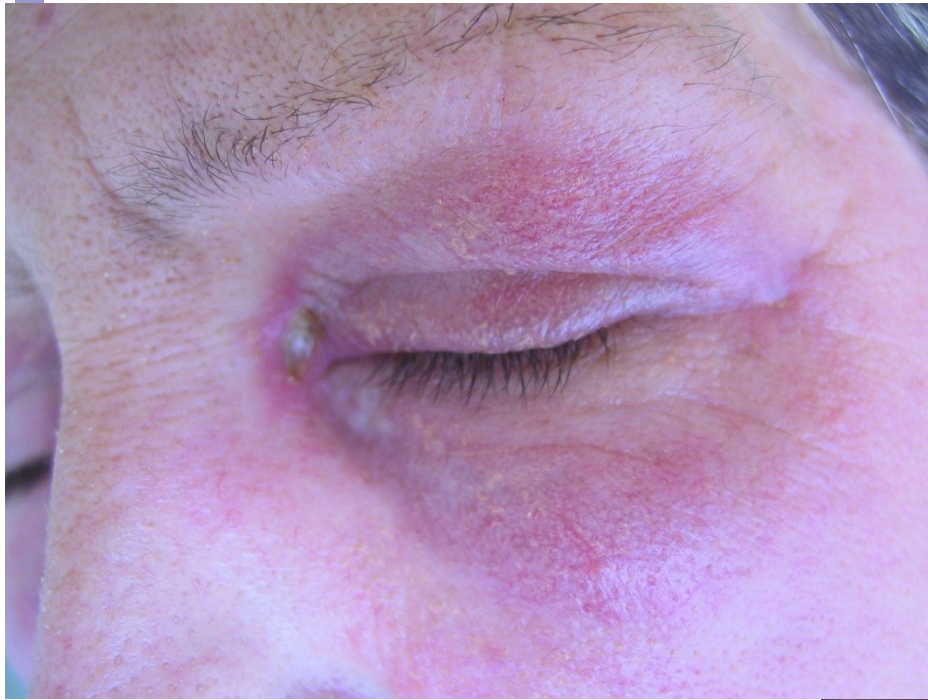
- Topical – corticosteroids, deltanoids, heparin
- Systemic- PNC
- Corticosteroids
- MTX
- Antimalarials
- UVA1

# Dermatomyositis, polymyositis

- **juvenile** - association with infections
- **adult** - association with tumours (paraneoplastic)
- heliotrophic rash, Gottron's sign, poikilodermatitis, erythemas
- EMG
- ANA, anti Jo-1
- CPK, LDH, GOT, ALD, AST, ALT, myoglobin
- Histology – muscle, skin









# Dermatomyositis - therapy

- Corticosteroids
- Immunosuppressives - MTX, azathioprine, cyclosporine
- Antimalarials
- IVIG

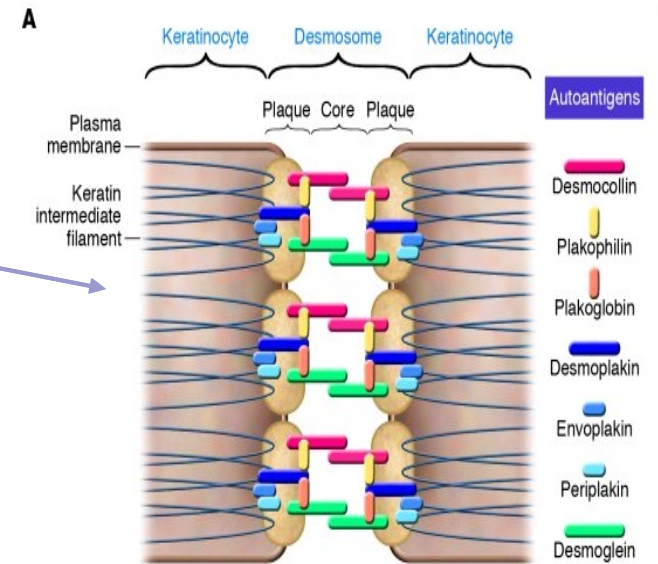




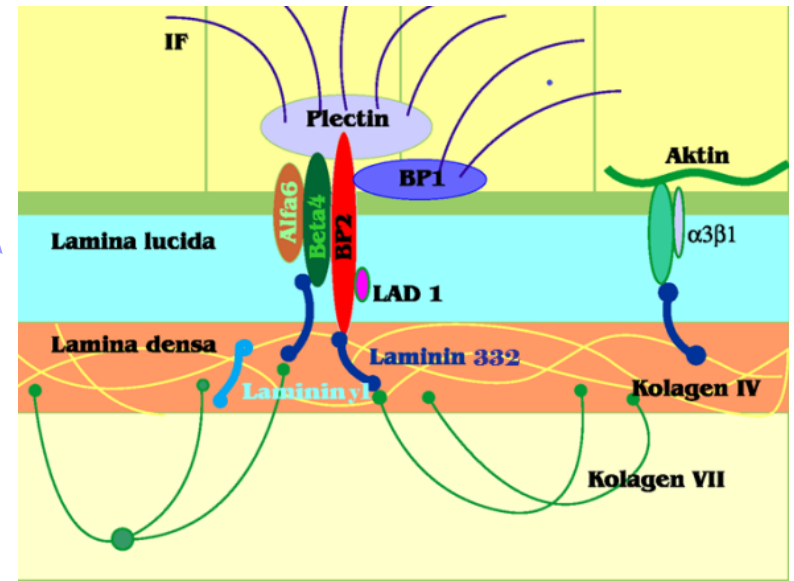
# Autoimmune bullous diseases

- Rare diseases, severe forms are lethal
- Skin and mucous membranes
- Two groups according to the level of cleavage
- Intraepidermal – Pemphigus and variants
- Subepidermal – pemphigoid group, DHD, EBA
- Autoantibodies IgG/IgA against antigens in the epidermis and junctional zone

# Pemphigus - desmosomes



# Pemphigoid - hemidesmosomes

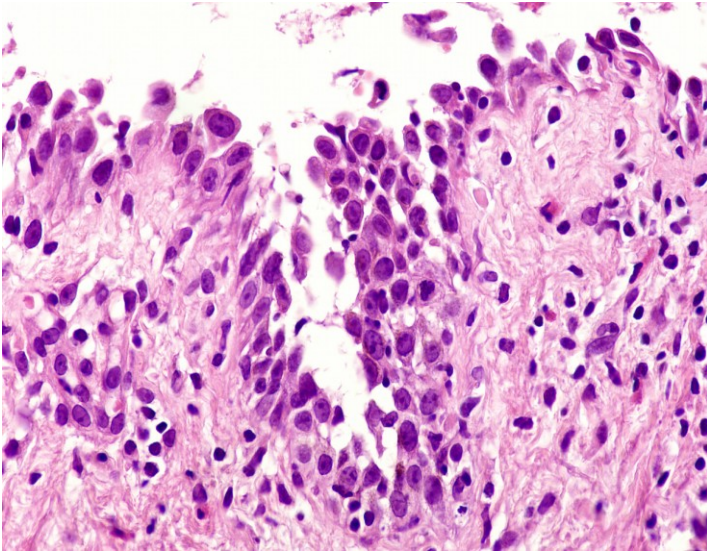


Diagnostics – Tzanck test, histology, immunofluorescence direct & indirect, ELISA, immunoblot

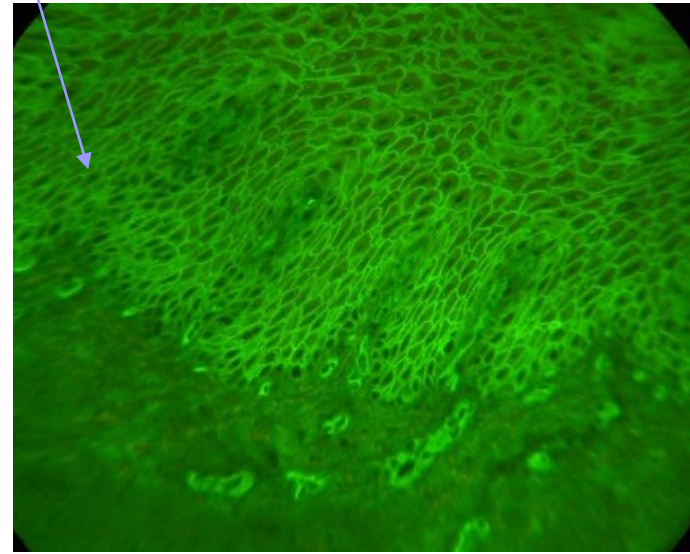
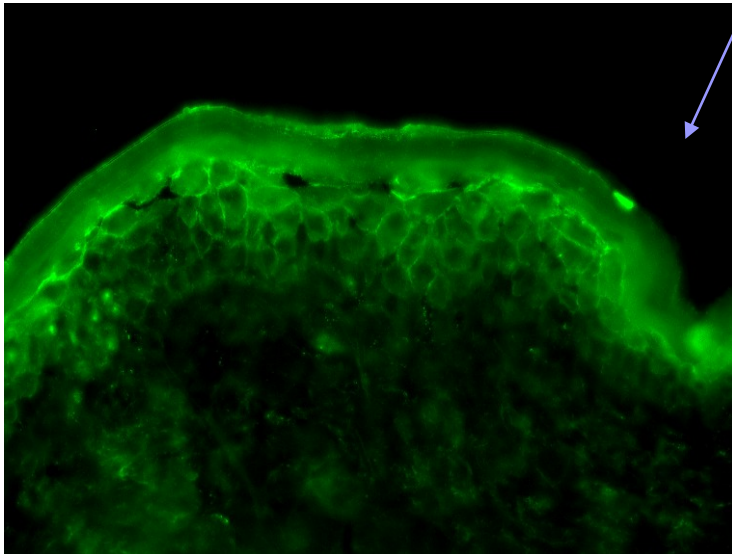
# Pemphigus

- **Suprabasal** (Dsg 3,1, IgG)
  - pemphigus vulgaris
    - vegetans
- **Superficial** (Dsg 1, IgG)
  - pemphigus foliaceus
    - fogo selvagem (Brazil)
    - drug induced (thiols, phenols, penicilamin, captopril)
  - pemphigus erythematosus Senear Usher –
    - fotosensitivity, ANA antibodies
- **Paraneoplastic Pemphigus** – lichenoid, EEM features, bronchiolitis
- **IgA pemphigus**

# Pemphigus

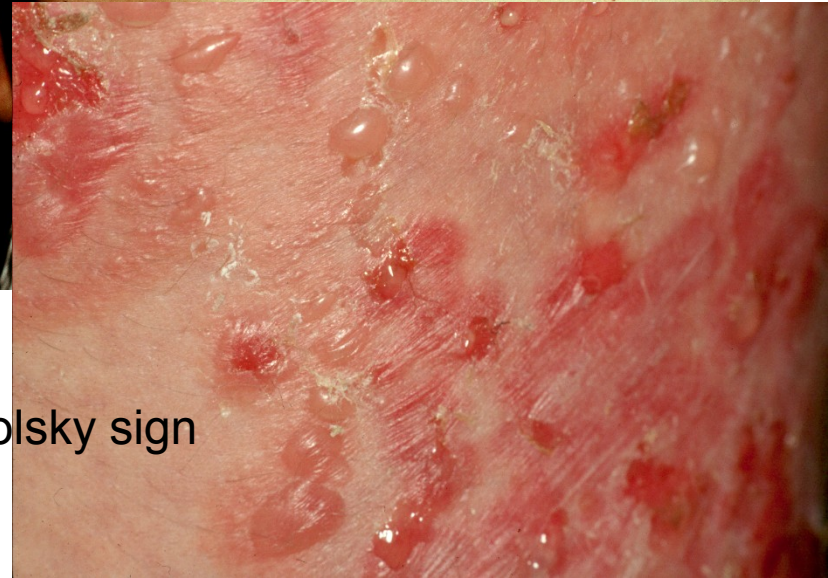
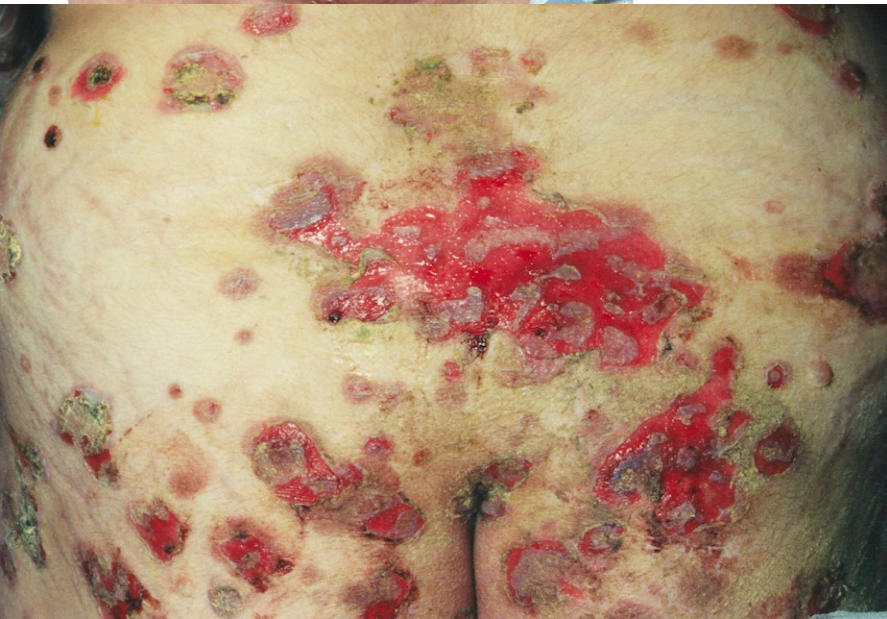


- Suprabasal acantholysis H+E
- Direct IF – pemphigus foliaceus
- Anti IgG/C3
- Indirect IF – monkey esophagus
- ICS anti IgG



# Pemphigus vulgaris

- Rare bullous disorder with autoantibody-induced intraepidermal blisters (desmosomes - acantholysis)
- Incidence 5/ 1 million inhabitants
- Chronic disease, can be lethal
- Average age 30-60 years
- Etiopathogenesis
- Genetic factors (HLADR4)
- Drug induced, infections, phenols
- Antibodies against desmoglein 1,3

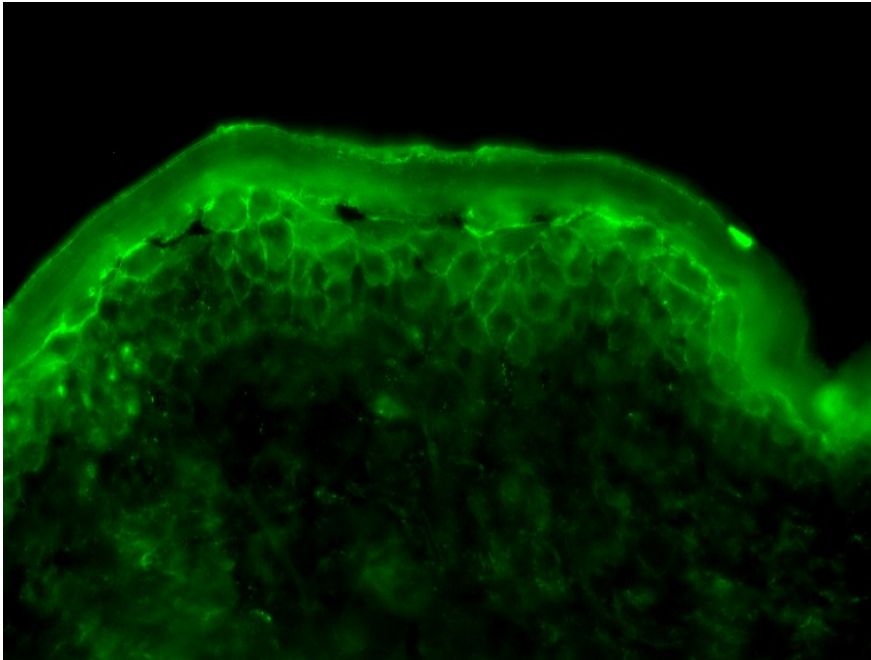


Nikolsky sign

# Pemphigus vegetans



# Pemphigus foliaceus



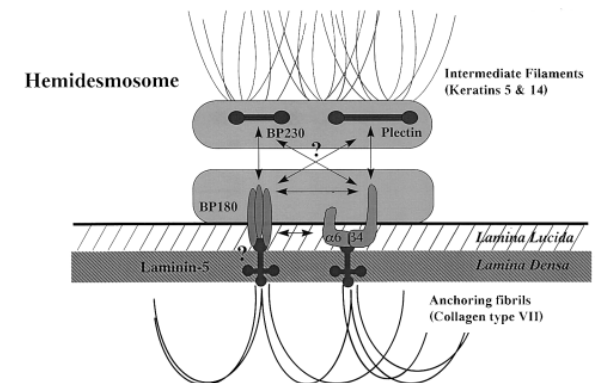


# Pemphigus therapy

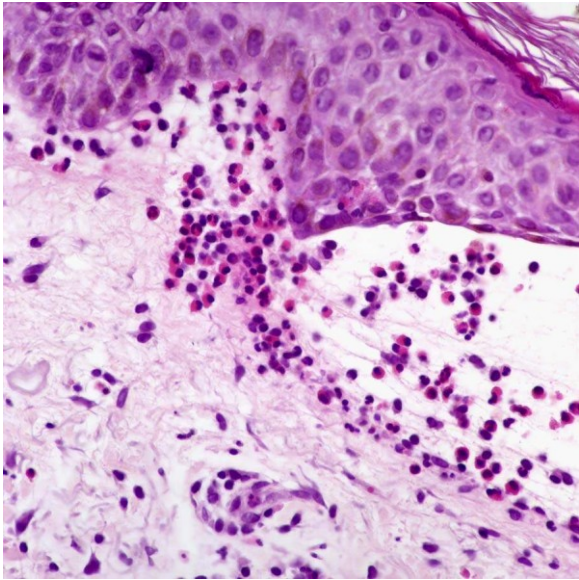
- Corticosteroids (Prednisone 1-1,5mg/kg/d)
- ...taper to 15 -20 mg/d
- Immunosuppressives - corticosteroid sparing agents
- Mycophenolate mofetil 2g/d
- Azathioprine – cave TPMT deficiency
- MTX 10-20mg per week  
(Cyclophosphamide – toxic)
- 
- Rituximab anti CD20 antibody –risk of infections
- Dapsone
- IVIG 1-2g/kg pulse every 6 weeks
- Immunoabsorption IgG
- Long term therapy, 2 years minimum, often life long

# Subepidermal autoimmune bullous dermatoses

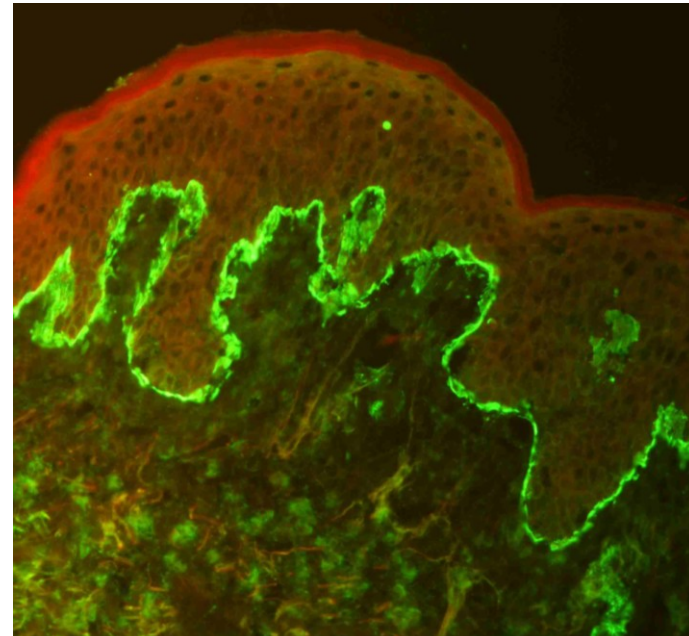
- Rare disorders with autoantibody-induced subepidermal blisters (basement membrane – hemidesmosomes)
- Bullous Pemphigoid - BP
- Pemphigoid gestations ( variant of BP)
- Cicatricial Pemphigoid – mucous membrane pemphigoid
- Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita (association diabetes, bowel disease)
- IgA linear dermatosis – typically childhood, in adults drug induced – vankomycin
- Dermatitis herpetiformis Duhring



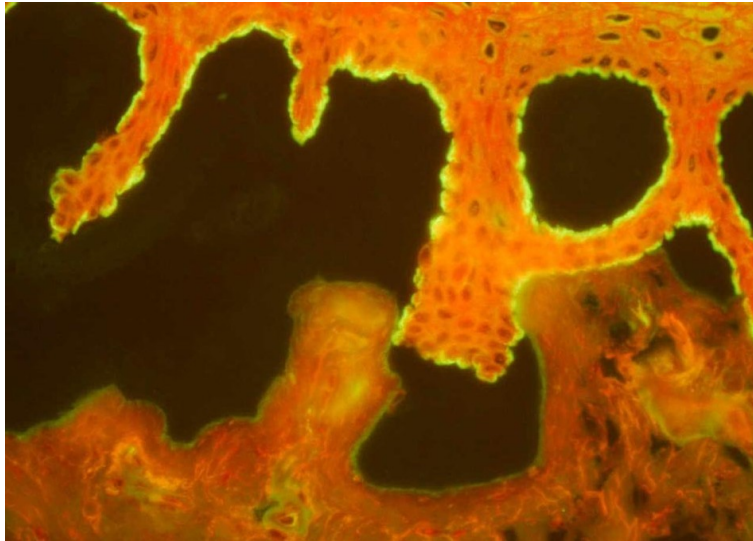
BP – subepidermal blister - eosinophils



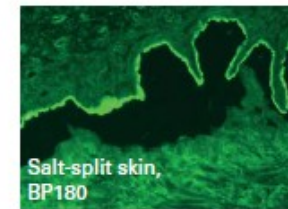
Direct IF line on BM IgG/C3



Salt split skin blister roof in BP



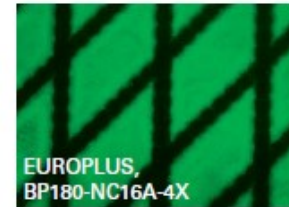
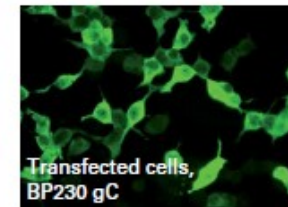
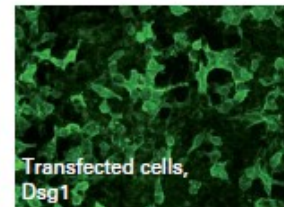
Oesophagus: detection of antibodies against prickle-cell desmosomes (pemphigus) and basal lamina (pemphigoid).



Salt-split skin: differentiation of autoantibodies against antigens of the epidermal (BP180, BP230) and dermal (collagen type VII, laminin 332, p200) sides of the skin.

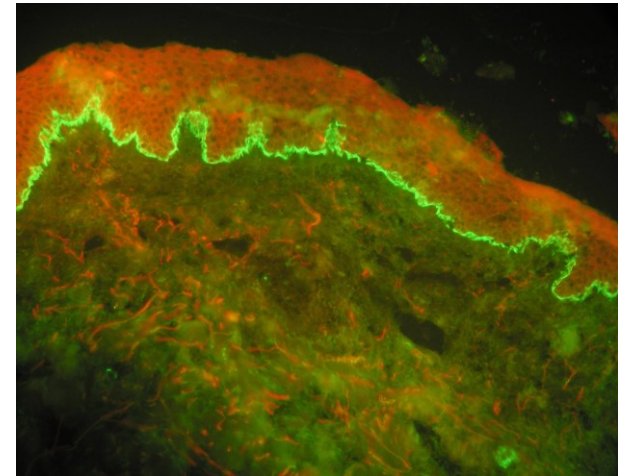


Bladder mucosa: detection of autoantibodies against plakins (paraneoplastic pemphig).



# Pemphigoid bullosus

- Elder people – over 70 years
- Many concomitant diseases
- Paraneoplastic disease (13%) prostate, breast cancer
- Drug induced (PNC, enalapril, furosemid, gliptins)
- Neurodegenerative diseases!
- Cerebral stroke + paresis, Parkinson disease, dementia
- (BP expression in neuronal tissue)
- 1 year survival 60% patients



BP tense hemorrhagic blisters, infiltrated skin  
Tissue and blood eosinophilia, strong pruritus





BP in paretic limb

Urticarial lesions in BP



# Pemphigoid bullosus therapy

- Corticosteroids (Prednisone 0,5-0,7mg/kg)

or

- Potent topical corticosteroids (clobetasol)
- Immunosuppressives ( azathioprine, methotrexate, mycophenolate)
- Dapsone
- TTC – antiinflammatory effect

# Cicatricial Pemphigoid MMP

- Incidence 1/million inhabitants
- 60 years of age
- Paraneoplasia (stomach cancer), topicals for glaucoma
- Mucose membranes —————> stenosis, scarring
- Conjunctiva - entropion, symblepharon, trichiasis —————>  
blindness
- Pharynx, larynx,
- Genital area
- Skin – minor disease Brunsting Perry Pemphigoid
  
- Therapy – as in pemphigus

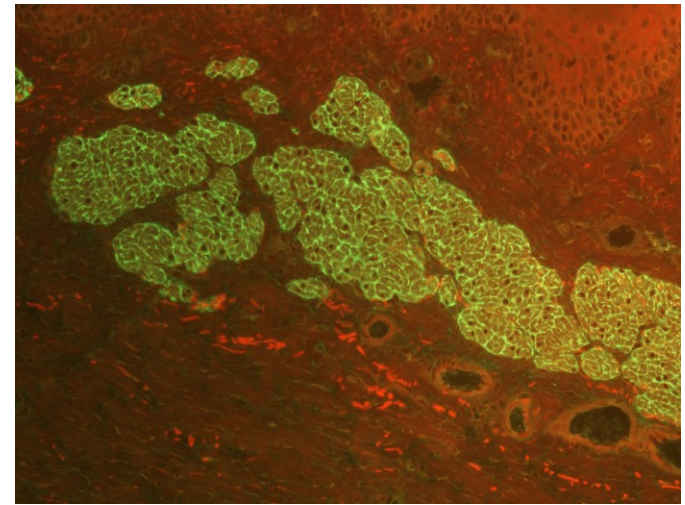




Pictures from Praktická dermatologie

# Dermatitis herpetiformis Duhring

- rare disease – incidence 3/1 million inhabitants
- gluten sensitive enteropathy – coeliacia
- IgA antibodies against endomysium (tissue transglutaminase)
- cross reaction with eTG on reticulin fibers in dermal papillae
- sensitivity to gluten, iodine



# Dermatitis herpetiformis Duhring

- Children rarely
- Young adults
- HLA DQ2, DQ8 association
- Predilection sites – elbows, knees, sacrum, hairline

## Therapy

- Gluten free diet
- Dapsone
- Topical corticosteroids

