

## REACTIVE ERYTHEMAS

### I. Urticaria, Angioedema Type I hypersensitivity

Red wheals, plaques with central translucency; pruritic!

Lesions recur in crops and waves, each lasting under 24 hours

Acute--under 6 weeks

Chronic--over 6 weeks

#### A. Types:

1. Angio[neurotic]edema--swelling of lips, genitalia, eyelids
2. Contact--rare; DMSO, cinnamates
3. Papular--insect bite reaction
4. Dermographism
5. Hereditary Angioedema--complement mediated

#### B. Etiology

1. Drugs--antibiotics (PCN, sulfa) salicylates
2. Foods--shellfish, tartrazine dyes
3. Physical Factors--heat, cold, pressure
4. Stress

#### C. Treatment--antihistamines

1. Steroids
2. epinephrine

### II. Erythema Multiforme

Symmetric target "Iris" lesions, often involving palms, soles

Resolving within days to weeks

A. Etiology

1. Infectious--Herpes virus, mycoplasma, deep fungi
2. Drugs-- -phenobarbital, PCN, sulfa

B. Treatment--self limited

1. ? steroids
2. antihistamines
3. treat underlying condition

C. Variants

1. Steven's Johnson Syndrome
  - a Erythema multiforme with bullous, erosive lesions
  - b Mucosal involvement
  - c Severe, potentially life threatening
2. Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis
  - a Widespread denudation, sloughing of inflamed skin
  - b Mortality--over 50%!

III. Erythema Nodosum (panniculitis)

- A. painful subcutaneous nodules on anterior shins, bilaterally
- B. bruising with pink/yellow/purple shiny plaques or nodules
- C. NO ulceration
- D. Etiology: Infectious (viral, Strep, deep fungi)
- E. Drugs (BCP's, PCN)
- F. Inflammatory Bowel Disease

G. Sarcoid

H. Treatment--self limited, lasting up to several weeks

1. NSAID's

2. steroids

IV. Drug Reactions--Type IV hypersensitivity (except urticaria)

A. Morbilliform--symmetric, pruritic coalescent pink papules and plaques

1. typically begins within 1 week of new drug

2. Bactrim, PCN

B. Urticaria

C. "Fixed"--phenolphthalein (Ex-Lax); Tetracyclines

D. Phototoxic--Tetracyclines, Thorazine, NSAID's

E. Alopecia--heparin, coumadin

F. Bullous--griseofulvin, nalidixic acid

G. Lupus Erythematosus--hydralazine, procainamide, INH

H. Psoriasis--lithium