

# Fluocinolone Acetonide 0.1% Solution and Prednisolone in The Treatment of Oral Pemphigus: 12-year Follow-up

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Pemphigus vulgaris (PV) is a rare autoimmune disease characterized by development of autoantibodies to the 130 kDa desmoglein desmosomes of both oral mucosa and the skin. A 43 years old Thai man was referred to the Oral Medicine Department, Faculty of Dentistry, Chulalongkorn University in October 1990 with a history of generalized painful and bleeding from gingiva. The lesions presented in the oral cavity for one year and they were diagnosed as gingivitis. Intraoral examination revealed generalized mucosal sloughing of gingiva, buccal mucosa, floor of the mouth and lower lip. Bleeding and severe painful areas of denudation were found. Pemphigus was an initial oral diagnosis of the lesions and the direct immunofluorescent study confirmed the diagnosis of pemphigus vulgaris. This patient had been treated with systemic steroid by a physician at the Division of Dermatology, General Medicine Department, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University at the initial dose of 80 mg. b.i.d. for 1 month and then reduced to 60, 40, 30, 20 mg/day through 9 months of therapy. During treatment with systemic steroid, topical steroid (fluocinolone acetonide 0.1% in solution) was used in this case and oral

hygiene control was performed during the period of treatment which enhanced the clinical responses. The role of dentist in early diagnosis and medicodental relationship was found to be important for the successful therapy. Complete healing was found on the entire oral mucosa after 1 year treatment through long term follow-up to 12 years. No serious clinical side-effects were observed from combination treatment with prednisolone and fluocinolone acetonide 0.1% solution in this case. The longterm remission in oral pemphigus has been reported infrequently, so combined treatment of prednisolone and potent topical steroid- fluocinolone acetonide 0.1% might be the drugs of choice in treatment of oral pemphigus.

## Editorial note

Pemphigus vulgaris is an autoimmune disease that usually starts in oral mucosa. It is quite rare as the author stated. Long term follow-up (12 years) and the emphasis on medicodental relationship make the presentation more interesting. It would have been more valuable if related literature were stated.

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