



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Medicine Science 2024;13(2):510-1

Letter to the editor regarding “Analysis of the epidemiology, coexisting skin diseases, and variables affecting seborrheic dermatitis severity”

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Received 29 February 2024; Accepted 22 April 2024
Available online 01 June 2024 with doi: 10.5455/medscience.2024.02.022

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Dear Editor,

Following the interesting publication "Analysis of the epidemiology, coexisting skin diseases, and variables affecting seborrheic dermatitis severity", the author concluded that "disease severity was higher in smokers" [1].

I observed the same correlation while studying my familial dermatitis which resembles seborrheic dermatitis since 1978. In all patients the allergic investigations were positive with the allergen tobacco leaf or the hapten nicotine bound to human serum albumine when using the human basophil degranulation test, the passive cutaneous anaphylaxis test in guinea pigs and the radioallergosorbent test (RAST tobacco leaf) [2-5].

Additionally, I described a dermatitis of the hand and arm followed by a seborrheic dermatitis of the face after contact with nicotine of horsetails [6].

In my last review on "Seborrheic dermatitis, origin and treatment" [7], I argue that the tissue mast cells at the base of the sebaceous glands are involved for the origin of seborrheic dermatitis.

Since 2011, three publications have demonstrated the presence of histamine locally in seborrheic dermatitis [8-10]. We know that histamine is a mediator released by tissue mast cells causing redness and itching [11].

Since 2010, many patients with seborrheic dermatitis locally use a dermatological soap and an ointment based on Dead Sea salts [12] confirming my original observation of 1980 with a sodium

cromoglycate ointment, a tissue mast cell stabilizer [13].

Recently, two researchers noted a link between allergies and seborrheic dermatitis [14].

Finally, magnesium of dead sea salts appeared to be a key factor for the treatment of seborrheic and atopic dermatitis by stabilizing tissue mast cells [15].

Conflict of Interests

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest in the study.

Financial Disclosure

The authors declare that they have received no financial support for the study.

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CITATION

Sudan BJL. Letter to the editor regarding "Analysis of the epidemiology, coexisting skin diseases, and variables affecting seborrheic dermatitis severity". *Med Science*. 2024;13(2):510-1.



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