

Comment on: “Trichloroacetic acid as a treatment for persistent oral mucosal lesions in pemphigus vulgaris”



To the Editor: We have read the Therapeutic Pearl by Mahmoudi et al on the use of topical trichloroacetic acid (TCA) for treatment of pemphigus vulgaris with great interest.¹ Chronic refractory oral lesions are a challenge in pemphigus vulgaris treatment, and new treatment proposals are relevant to improve disease management. Nevertheless, as published by some of the authors² and also well demonstrated in the manuscript they used as reference,³ we have detected herpes simplex virus (HSV) type 1 previously in mucosal lesions of pemphigus vulgaris patients using immunofluorescence and qualitative PCR assays.⁴ In addition, local trauma during mastication is another differential etiologic cause for refractory oral lesions and a consultation of a dental surgeon is of great relevance in these cases.

Both the clinical image and the excellent result from the use of TCA in the reported case have led us to inquire the authors about a possible association of chronic pemphigus vulgaris ulcer with HSV infection, which they did not rule out in their study.¹ It would be of interest to collect a mucosal lesion sample for Tzanck smear to investigate HSV infection in pemphigus vulgaris patients with chronic refractory oral lesions before using TCA treatment.⁵

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