

Etiopathogenesis of Histoid Leprosy

There appears in this issue of the *JOURNAL* another in a series of studies on histoid leprosy that have appeared in this *JOURNAL* since the original description by Wade.¹ Through all these reports the concept that this is a variant histopathologic expression of lepromatous leprosy seems fairly consistent. Nevertheless, the underlying reason for this unexpected histopathologic response remains obscure.

One wonders, and we have suggested the possibility to several authors, whether or not this response may be related to a tendency to keloid scarring in these patients. Being a very chronic disease without any great tendency to tissue necrosis, leprosy may provide a stimulus evocative of such a tendency

if it is present. Thus far no study has appeared in which such a possible relationship has been examined. Future studies of histoid leprosy might explore this possible relationship by reporting on the presence or absence of evidence of such tendency and by reporting on whether or not there is an increase in mucopolysaccharide in histoid lesions as has been reported to be characteristic of keloids.²

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¹Wade, H.W. The histoid variety of lepromatous leprosy. *Internat. J. Leprosy* **31** (1963) 129-142.

²Blackburn, W.R. and Gossman, B. Differentiation of keloid and hyperplastic scar. *Arch. Pathol.* **82** (1966) 65.