

Reply to Dr. Klokke's Letter

TO THE EDITOR:

The short answer to Professor Klokke's letter is that by the time the "absence of sweating" (not its diminution) is present in a hypopigmented skin lesion, the clinical appearances are pathognomonic to the experienced clinician. Characteristic, but non-specific anhidrosis does not give the indubitable evidence of the leprous origin of the lesion as does the demonstration of acid-alcohol-fast organisms in typical situations

in the nerve fibrils coursing in the deep dermis.

The less experienced clinician or the less experienced histopathologist is, in my opinion, well advised to await indubitable signs of leprosy.

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