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Controversies in dermatology: Part V.

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Commentary

Controversies in Dermatology: Part V

By Ronni Wolf MD and Lawrence Charles Parish MD MD (Hon)

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“It were not best that we should all think alike; it is difference of opinion that makes horse-races” Mark Twain (Samuel L. Clemens) in *The Tragedy of Pudd’nead Wilson*, Ch. 19, “Pudd’nead Wilson’s Calendar”.

Part V of *Controversies in Dermatology* continues the precedent of earlier issues by providing a platform for discussion of a broad range of contemporary and controversial issues. In this issue of *Clinics in Dermatology*, we will forego the temptation to expose hidden agendas and witches brews, rather, we shall focus on accepted beliefs, principles, doctrines, and paradigms, which you may find even more astonishing.

Did you know...

The current issue starts with a provocative chapter on skin cancer screening and primary prevention. The authors state: “conclusive evidence of the benefits of skin cancer screening with respect to decreasing mortality is presently lacking and probably will remain elusive for quite some time.” Many questions remain unanswered, and the authors deal with the most controversial among them.

An experts' expert group in dermatoscopy presents the light and the dark of dermatoscopy in the early diagnosis of melanoma. It is gratifying to see how the strongest

protagonists of this method found (and revealed!) some dark sides of this otherwise promising technology.

Dietary modification, through supplementation and exclusion, is an extremely popular treatment modality for patients with chronic skin conditions. The role of nutrition in psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, urticarial, and bullous diseases, plus preventing skin aging and maintaining youthful healthy skin, are discussed in the following two chapters. If your patients were reading this issue, you can be sure that they would read these contributions first!

A discussion on the role of psychological factors in skin diseases follows – unquestionably the kind of information you must have whatever the clinical presentation.

The next 4 chapters are fascinating contributions on controversies and debates on aesthetic procedures, ranging from ablative and non-ablative rejuvenation to dermal fillers and the treatment of cellulite. Among the areas of dermatology you need to be updated upon, this probably ranks among the top five!

Isomorphic phenomenon of Koebner was described over a century ago, and it is still not free from controversies. An outstanding Brazilian group deals with this phenomenon, as well as with disorders of hair growth and the pilosebaceous unit. The same group also provides a presentation of our current state of knowledge on anti-aging cosmetics and the many controversies and debates surrounding it. These are the issues disturbing your patients, and this chapter will provide you with the answers you need!

The issue continues with four chapters devoted to ethical and medicolegal aspects of dermatology, all of which are hot topics that occupy increasing amounts of time in the 21st century practice of medicine. Your “need to know” goes without saying...

Next, there is a chapter entitled "Barrier-repair prescription moisturizers: do we really need them?". Your editors (R.W. and L.P.) will take up the cudgel and attempt to meet the challenge of providing sound answers to this provocative question.

The issue concludes with an analysis of whether non-melanome skin cancers must be excised or when physician and/or chemical modalities may suffice.

Acknowledgment

Preparation of an issue such as this requires the cooperative efforts of many. Our gratitude for making this project a reality must go to the contributors who have given of their time and

knowledge to produce this issue. It is only thanks to their willingness to share their opinions and experience that we are able to offer our colleagues an intelligent and interesting collection of contributions that unravel some of the complicated and controversial topics in dermatology that, through you, will benefit many thousands of patients.