

Up-Close

A Look at Dermatological Diagnoses

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Figure 1. A woman's abdomen with tense bullae.

Bullous Pemphigoid

Bullous Pemphigoid is a subepidermal blistering skin disease, occurring especially in the elderly. It is characterized by marked pruritus. Large tense blisters arise most commonly on the lower abdomen, inner thighs, and flexor forearms. They may be preceded or accompanied by erythematous urticarial lesions.

Histopathology

Histology shows a subepidermal blister with eosinophils, and deposits of IgG and C3 are found at the basement membrane zone (the hemidesmosome).

Treatment

Treatment may be topical if limited, however, systemic corticosteroids are the mainstay of treatment. Azathioprine, sulfones, erythromycin, tetracycline, nicotinamide, methotrexate, and intravenous IgG have been used successfully. [CME](#)

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