



“Doc, now my face itches too!”

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Frank, 35, has a 10-year history of psoriasis vulgaris on the body. He complains of recent onset of psoriasis on the face, which is not improving with hydrocortisone 1% ointment.

1. The face is involved in what percentage of psoriasis patients?

- a) 5%
- b) 25%
- c) 50%
- d) 80%
- e) 100%

2. Possible complications of potent topical corticosteroid use on the face include(s):

- a) Telangiectasias
- b) Rosacea
- c) Acne
- d) Atrophy
- e) All of the above

3. Calcipotriol use on the face may result in:

- a) Atrophy
- b) Rosacea
- c) Irritation
- d) Tachyphylaxis
- e) Telangiectasias

Answers: 1-b ; 2-e; 3-c

More on psoriasis

Psoriasis affects the face in about 25% of patients. Treatment is somewhat limited because of the increased risk of side-effects of topical steroid use on the face compared to areas of thicker skin. It is also limited because of increased sensitivity to



Figure 1. Recent onset of psoriasis on the face.

irritation by other standard treatments for psoriasis, such as tars, retinoids, and calcipotriol.

Calcipotriol use on the face and other sensitive areas is not contraindicated, but should be undertaken with caution. The risk of irritation should be fully explained to the patient. Individual sensitivity varies and topical calcipotriol may be well-tolerated by some patients, in which case it can be used safely once or twice daily, as needed, for an unlimited period of time. **Dx**

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