Anti-desmoglein Antibodies

Anti-desmoglein antibodies are autoantibodies directed against the protein desmoglein, which is contained in desmosomes that hold keratinocytes together. This results in the condition Pemphigus Vulgaris, which is characterized by acantholysis (loss of epithelial cell cohesion) and resultant oral erosions and skin blisters.



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Pemphigus Vulgaris
Pegasus Vulgar with blisters
Antibodies directed against desmoglein result in acantholysis, loss of epithelial cell cohesion, and the condition Pemphigus Vulgaris. It is treated with glucocorticoids.

Flaccid Blisters
Floppy Blisters
Pemphigus vulgaris often demonstrates as extensive flaccid blisters. Pressure applied to these blisters leads to separation of the epidermis.

Skin and Oral Mucosa
Skin and Mouth Blisters
Blisters appear on the skin and are easily ruptured. Skin and oral mucosa: Erosions of the oral mucosa in addition to skin blisters distinguish Pemphigus Vulgaris from Bullous Pemphigoid which does not have oral involvement.

Positive Nikolsky's Sign
Positive Nickel-ski
Nikolsky's sign is positive when slight rubbing of the skin results in exfoliation of the outermost layer, forming a blister within minutes. This does not occur in Bullous Pemphigoid.

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