

### COMMENT: RIFAMPICIN PHARMACOLOGY

Sir,

The above item appeared in 'News and Notes' (*Lepr Rev*, 1989; **60**:334) and I would like to make the following comments:

The list omits one important action of rifampicin. Rifampicin is one of the important causes of drug induced pemphigus.<sup>1</sup> It can trigger off the disease or modify the course of pemphigus. It may also have effect on steroid requirement as mentioned in the article.

I would like to record our experience. One of our pemphigus patients on a maintenance dose of corticosteroid needed anti-tubercular treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis. During a subsequent relapse, she did not respond satisfactorily to 80 mg. per day of prednisolone as was the case in previous relapses. We were able to get a good response to treatment after substituting streptomycin for rifampicin.

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### Reference

<sup>1</sup> Pisani M, Ruocio. Drug-induced pemphigus. *Clin Dermatol*, 1986; **4**: 118-28.