

INTRODUCTION

Adhesion molecules play a major role in the pathogenesis of inflammatory skin diseases by regulating lymphocyte trafficking and homing in an inflamed area [*Caproni et al., 1995*].

Intercellular adhesion molecules ICAM-3 is important in regulating leucocyte function and T-lymphocyte antigen presenting cell interactions. Soluble circulating forms of ICAM-3 and ICAM-1 exist in serum. Their levels are elevated in a variety of auto-immune disease. Psoriasis is a T-lymphocyte mediated disease characterized by cutaneous expression of ICAM-1, ICAM-3 and TNF-alpha. It is unknown whether circulating ICAM-3 increased or not in the sera of patient of psoriasis [*Griffiths et al., 1996*].

Psoriasis is a T-cell mediated disease that can be triggered by infection with group A beta haemolytic streptococci [*Valdimarsson et al., 1995*].

An abnormal immune response directed against a self antigen after initiation by A streptococcal infection may play an important role in exacerbation or development of psoriasis [*Muto et al. 1996*].

Guttate psoriasis a well defined form of psoriasis frequently associated with streptococcal throat infection. All streptococcal isolates from patients with guttate psoriasis secreted streptococcal pyogenic exotoxin C, a superantigen known to stimulate marked V beta 2+Tcell expansion [*Leung et al., 1995*].