

INTRODUCTION AND AIM OF THE WORK

The skin of infants (the first two years of life), may be affected by many vesiculobullous diseases, some of which are common and the majority are rare.

There are some bullous skin disorders peculiar to infancy, but in addition bullous dermatoses of adults may also affect infants. This indicates that the skin of infants is more vulnerable to skin affection than that of adults. This is overemphasized by the fact that stimuli which in adults may lead to local tissue reaction, may in infants result in collection of free fluid, that is a vesicle or a bullae. (Milne, 1972).

Although various aetiological factors may contribute in the evolution of bullous diseases in infants as genetic, allergic, infectious or disturbed immune state, our knowledge as to pathogenetic mechanism remain limited. Current classification and diagnosis is based upon clinical features, electron microscopic examination and when possible immunopathologic mechanisms (Hurwitz, 1981).

Treatment of such diseases is based upon the aetiology, clinical features, also on the severity of the case and so differ from one disease to another.

This work will include a review of literature concerned with different aspects of vesiculo-bullous diseases of infants which may lead to better knowledge and earlier and more accurate diagnosis.