

INTRODUCTION
AIM of WORK

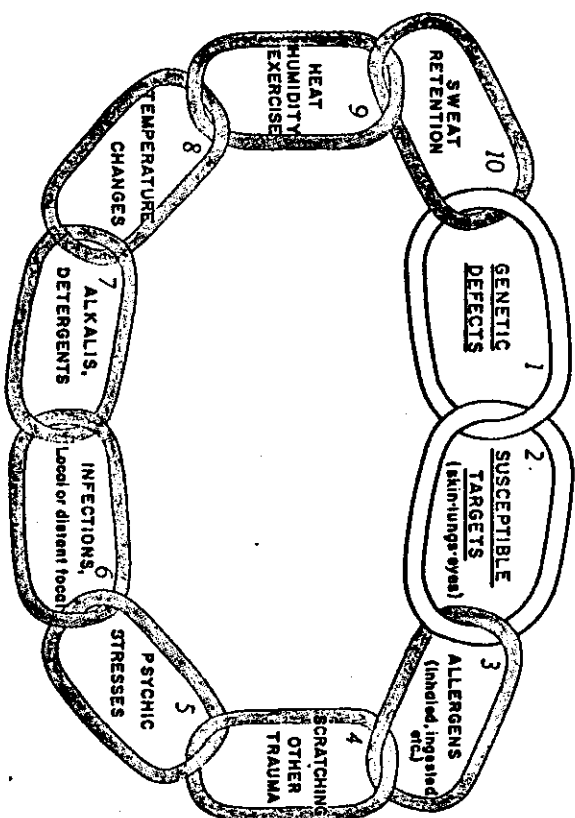
INTRODUCTION & AIM OF WORK

The term Atopy " a strange disease" was given since long time ago to describe familial constitution 1 group of associated manifestations which occurred exclusively in man (Coca & Cooke, 1923). Atopic dermatitis is thus, by definition, that characteristic inflammatory disease of the skin which is found most frequently in atopic individuals, i.e. in those who have in their person and/or family a heaping of the principal manifestation of atopy (Kierland, 1955).

The etiology of atopic dermatitis is unknown. As has been stated, its relationship to certain other allergic diseases is beyond question and exposure to allergens sometimes produce attacks. These are undoubtedly genetic factors involved but the precise mode of transmission is not yet clear. But exposures to allergens and immunologic hereditary predisposition, these two alone do not suffice to account for the disease or to produce it de novo. Other factors seem to be required acting in concert to forge the multifactorial chain considered responsible for the disease (C. gli & Baer, 1979) (see Chart 1).

MULTIFACTORIAL CHAIN

OF CAUSATION IN ATOPIC DERMATITIS



(After Marrison B. Sulzberger
Pitz patrick, 1971)

Accordingly, a trial in this work was aimed to collect the different theories postulated for the etiopathogenesis of the disease. These theories include the genetic, autonomic, physiological, vascular, altered pharmacological, immunological and psychological.

Implication of each theory and its relation to the clinical picture, complications, associated diseases, therapeutic trials and other aspects of the disease process will be cleared up in the discussion of each theory. Definition, historical review, incidence and epidemiology are going to be mentioned separately.

A conclusion of which theory is going to be found supportive for the etiology of the disease was looked for.
