

## INTRODUCTION

The skin is a mirror of many physiological and pathological changes that occur in many body systems and organs. In this study it is tried to give an account about the pruritic dermatoses of pregnancy.

It is more useful for dermatologists, obstetricians and pediatricians to give an account about these dermatoses as many of them have maternal and fetal risks (Winton & Lewis, 1982).

Dermatoses of pregnancy are a group of skin disorders related to gestation and puerperium. Four of these disorders have firm clinical, histological laboratory basis and stand out as distinct entities: herpes gestationis, impetigo herpetiformis, pruritus gravidarum and auto-immune progesterone dermatitis of pregnancy.

There are also other five disorders:

Pruritic urticarial papules and plaques of pregnancy, prurigo gestationis, papular dermatitis of pregnancy, toxemic rash of pregnancy and prurigo annularis

This group is characterized by a pruritic papular eruption and these diseases are difficult to differentiate by commonly available means (Sassevill et al., 1981).

This essay deals with pruritic dermatoses of pregnancy which include all the above mentioned dermatoses except auto-immune progesterone dermatitis.