

## Read Item - Cicatricial Pemphigoid

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scarring

**Abstract:** Doctor's resource on Cicatricial Pemphigoid

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### Cicatricial Pemphigoid

Cicatricial pemphigoid is an autoimmune blistering disease with circulating antibodies to antigens found within the lower portion of the lamina lucida. These circulating antibodies are only detectable in a minority of patients using currently available techniques.

It predominantly affects the elderly and occurs more frequently in women than in men. It targets the mucous membranes particularly the ocular and genital mucosa and involves the skin in only 40 to 50% of cases. Favoured sites are the face and scalp. The skin lesions are usually confined to a limited area within which bullae repeatedly recur and heal with a thickened scar. The bullae and the associated mucosal lesions differentiate CP from other forms of cicatricial alopecia, however the skin lesions may precede the mucosal lesions by months or years and occasionally there is no history of blisters. In such cases the diagnosis relies on the biopsy revealing the subepidermal split and direct immunofluorescence showing positive staining with IgG and C3.

Topical clobetasol propionate is often insufficient to control the blistering in cicatricial pemphigoid. Oral prednisolone or cyclosporin A may be required if there is significant mucosal involvement, especially if vision is threatened. Excision and grafting of a localised area of recurrent blister formation may be helpful in some circumstances.

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