

Membership

To join, please fill in your details below:

Surname First Name

Address

Suburb Postcode

Telephone number

Email

I would like to :

- Receive a newsletter
- Attend educational meetings
- Provide support to new patients
- Participate in the running of the
Australasian Blistering Diseases Foundation
- I would like my treating specialist to be notified.

Name of Specialist:

Suburb of Specialist:

Please send to:
Australasian Blistering Diseases Foundation
Department of Dermatology, St George Hospital
Gray Street
KOGARAH NSW 2217

The ABDF is a registered charity and as such relies on grants, donations and fundraising to continue its valuable work.

If you would like to make a donation please visit our donations page at www.blisters.org.au for payment details.

Thank you for your support



Australasian Blistering Diseases Foundation
Department of Dermatology
St George Hospital
Kogarah Sydney NSW 2217
Ph: 02 9113 2543

Email: dermsec@sesiahs.health.nsw.gov.au

www.blisters.org.au

Australasian Blistering Diseases Foundation



Patient Support Group

What are blistering diseases?

Blistering diseases are a rare group of diseases which cause blistering and erosions in the skin and/or mucous membranes. Blisters and erosions are painful, and can also cause problems with swallowing or vision.

Being diagnosed with a rare, life-threatening and incurable disease can be quite frightening, and our aim is provide information and support for patients and their families.

Types of blistering diseases

Diseases covered by this organisation include:

Autoimmune blistering diseases

- Bullous Pemphigoid
- Pemphigus vulgaris
- Pemphigus foliaceus
- Paraneoplastic pemphigus
- Mucous membrane pemphigoid
- Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita
- Linear IgA disease
- Bullous lupus
- Dermatitis herpetiformis

Genetic blistering diseases

- Epidermolysis bullosa



Pemphigus vulgaris



Bullous pemphigoid

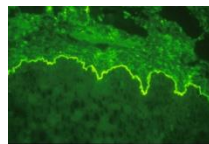
What causes blistering diseases?

Normal skin contains a number of proteins that 'glue' the skin together. Inherited blistering diseases are caused by being born without a normal amount of these components. Auto-immune blistering diseases are caused by an aberrant immune response which attacks skin adhesion molecules. The cause of the abnormal immune process is not known. All these processes cause the skin to blister and form painful erosions.

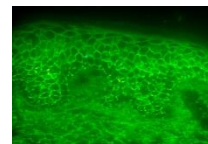
How are they diagnosed?

Blistering diseases are diagnosed by a combination of clinical appearance and diagnostic tests. A skin biopsy is needed to confirm the diagnosis and distinguish between different types of blistering diseases. Blood tests may also be used to measure the amount and type of auto-antibody in autoimmune blistering diseases, and for genetic testing in inherited blistering diseases.

Immunofluorescence biopsies



bullous pemphigoid



pemphigus vulgaris

How are they treated?

Autoimmune blistering diseases cannot be cured, but they can be controlled. They are treated with medications which suppress the immune system. Inherited blistering diseases are treated with non-stick bandages and other supportive measures.

What do we do?

The Australasian Blistering Diseases Foundation is dedicated to providing information and support to patients with rare auto-immune and hereditary blistering diseases and their families.

Education

- Basic facts about the diseases
- Information about treatment
- Research updates
- Participation in clinical trials
- Patient-doctor meetings
- Biannual newsletters

Support

- Advice on living with the disease
- Local support groups
- Email discussion group

Research

- Encouraging research into the cause, diagnosis and treatment of blistering diseases

Advocacy

- Increasing public awareness
- Education for health care professionals