Question 1

A 35-year-old lady presented with generalized itchy rash for two years. Examination revealed erythematous confluent patches with well-demarcated areas of sparing over the back. She has past history of thyrotoxicosis and she is a hepatitis B carrier.

1. What is the diagnosis and what other clinical features would you expect?
2. What is the characteristic histological finding?
3. How would you treat the patient?

Question 2

This is a patient with depigmented skin lesion undergoing certain treatment procedure.

1. What is this treatment procedure?
2. What are the possible postoperative complications?
3. What factors affect the success rate of the procedure? (answers on page 70)


Answers to Dermato-venereological Quiz on page 93

Answer (Question 1)

1. Pityriasis rubra pilaris (PRP) type 1.
   The distinguishing features of PRP include “islands” of spared skin within generalized erythroderma, follicular keratotic papules, an orange hue to the involved skin, and palmoplantar keratoderma.

2. Psoriasiform dermatitis covered by alternating orthokeratosis and parakeratosis in both vertical and horizontal directions.

3. Complete remission will occur in 80% of patients within 3 years. Topical therapies include emollient, corticosteroid, keratolytic and calcipotriol. Retinoid is the first line systemic therapy. Other treatment modalities include: methotrexate, azathioprine, and phototherapy.

Answer (Question 2)

1. Autologous epidermal transplantation for vitiligo. Depigmented skin can also been seen adjacent to the OT towel. Suction blister is being prepared on the recipient site over the neck. Epidermal graft is obtained from the inner arm or lower abdomen similarly by suction and then transplanted to the recipient site.

2. a) Pigmentary change over the graft site. This will resolve with time.
   b) Possible Koebner’s phenomenon over graft site.
   c) Skin infection.

3. Correct and accurate transplantation of the graft (which is thin and curls easily), post-operative graft immobilization and prevention of infection are important.