Understanding pemphigus vulgaris

Pemphigus vulgaris (PV) is a rare autoimmune condition which can be life-threatening if left untreated. It causes painful blisters on the skin and mucous membranes.1

~3 in 100,000 are affected globally2

~60 years with no new treatment options.

There's currently no cure.

Treatment to date has largely included the use of steroids (sometimes referred to as corticosteroids), long-term use of which can cause significant side effects, including:

- Increased risk of infection
- Thinning of the bones
- Diabetes
- Stomach ulcers
- Malnutrition
- Fluid loss
- Reduced quality of life

While the cause is unknown, and it can affect people of any age or gender...

...and can lead to….

PV occurs when the immune system produces antibodies that mistakenly target healthy skin and mucous membranes, causing blisters to form.1

In PV blisters burst easily leaving behind painful sores that can be slow to heal.1,3

PV affects skin and mucous membranes in the mouth.1

Blisters most commonly affect skin and the mucosal membranes in the mouth. On skin, the most commonly affected areas are the:2,3

- Face
- Scalp
- Shoulder blades
- Chest
- Eyelids
- Nose
- Throat
- Genitals

Other mucosal membranes affected include the:2,3,4

- Oral cavity
- Nasal cavity
- Esophagus
- Gastric
- Stomach

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Early diagnosis and treatment is key in reducing the impact of symptoms. To learn more, contact your doctor.

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Reduced quality of life, where blisters and sores cause increased absence from work, social withdrawal, anxiety and depression2

People with Mediterranean, Middle Eastern, Indian or Jewish heritage have a higher risk of developing PV.1,3,8

Most people are diagnosed between the ages of 50-60, although this varies globally.2

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