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Psoriasis

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## Serum prolactin level in psoriasis: Is that really higher than in healthy individuals?

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**INTRODUCTION & OBJECTIVES:** Background: Psoriasis is a chronic immune-mediated skin disease with a genetic predisposition. Prolactin may contribute to psoriasis pathogenesis. However, there has been a debate over the serum level of prolactin in psoriatic patients.

Aim: To delineate the role of serum prolactin in the pathogenesis of psoriasis

**MATERIAL & METHODS:** The serum prolactin level was measured in 45 patients with psoriasis and in 45 sex- and age-matched healthy individuals using radioimmunoassay.

**RESULTS:** The mean serum prolactin concentration was not different between psoriatic patients and healthy controls ( $320 \pm 179.38$  vs.  $318.18 \pm 191.78$  IU respectively;  $P = 0.95$ ). There was no sex- and age-related differences in serum prolactin between the two study groups. Hyperprolactinemia (serum prolactin  $>324$  IU in men, and  $>496$  IU for women) was observed in 11 patients with psoriasis and 12 healthy subjects, which showed no significant difference between the two groups [ $\chi^2 (1) = 0.06$ ,  $N = 90$ ,  $P = 0.81$ ]. The serum prolactin was not significantly correlated with the duration of the disease ( $r = -0.18$ ,  $P = 0.24$ ) or the PASI score ( $r = 0.10$ ,  $P = 0.50$ ).

**CONCLUSIONS:** The possible role of pituitary-produced circulating prolactin in the disease process needs further investigations.