

EB SIMPLEX



Most common form of EB

In some people blisters are localised and seasonal

Other individuals have more extensive blisters

Extracutaneous involvement can occur

JUNCTIONAL EB

Rare form of EB



Some forms of JEB have a very poor prognosis

More localised with skin, hair, teeth, and nail manifestations

Extracutaneous involvement also may feature

JUNCTIONAL EB (milder)



Rare form of EB

Some forms of JEB have a very poor prognosis

More localised with skin, hair, teeth, and nail manifestations

Extracutaneous involvement also may feature

DYSTROPHIC EB



Autosomal dominant and recessive

Localised or generalised blistering

Itch, pain, scarring and contractures

Wounds may be slow to heal

Mucosal involvement

DYSTROPHIC EB (milder)



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DYSTROPHIC EB









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DYSTROPHIC EB



Autosomal dominant and recessive

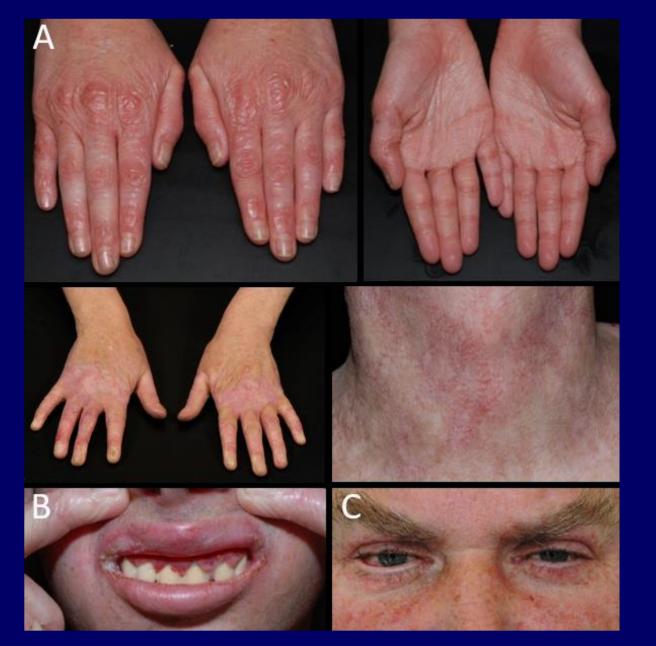
Localised or generalised blistering

Itch, pain, scarring and contractures

Wounds may be slow to heal

Mucosal involvement

KINDLER EB



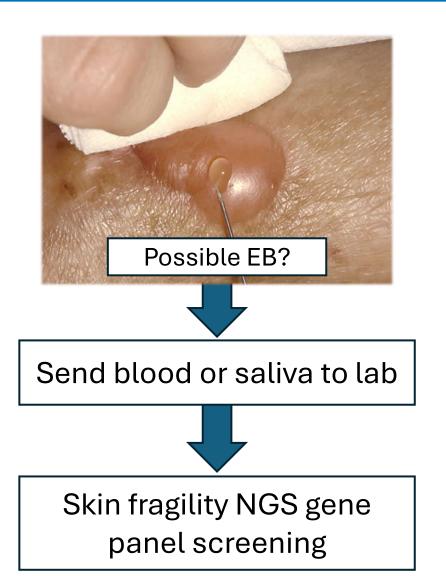
Initial blistering

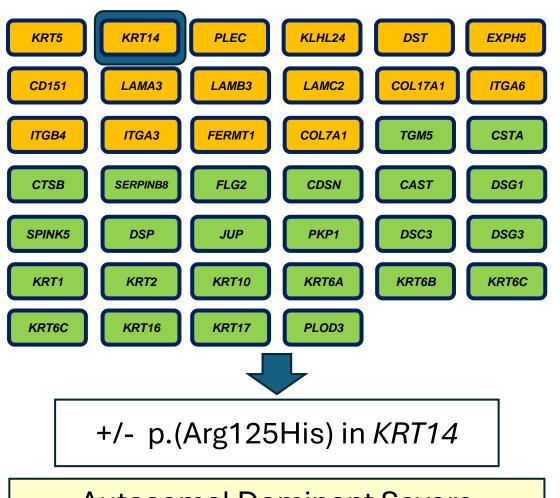
Then variable photosensitivity

Poikiloderma (especially atrophy)

Oral and mucosal involvement

There have been huge advances in how we diagnose EB...



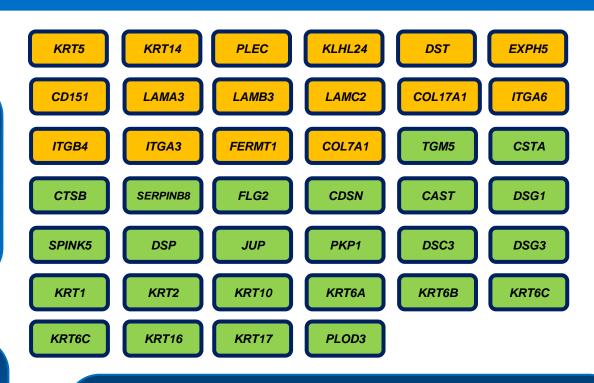


Autosomal Dominant Severe Epidermolysis Bullosa Simplex

There have been huge advances in how we diagnose EB...

Forty genes to include in "gene therapy" based therapeutics

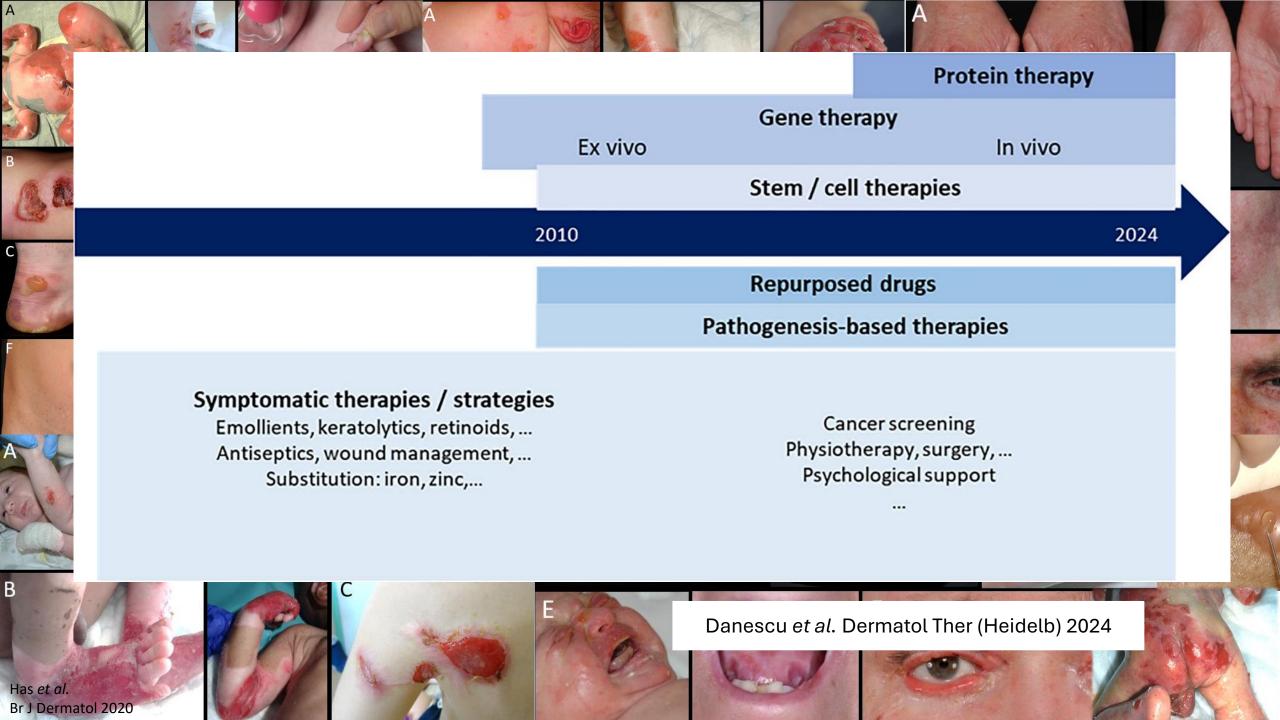
Most of the pathogenic variants in these 40 genes are family-specific

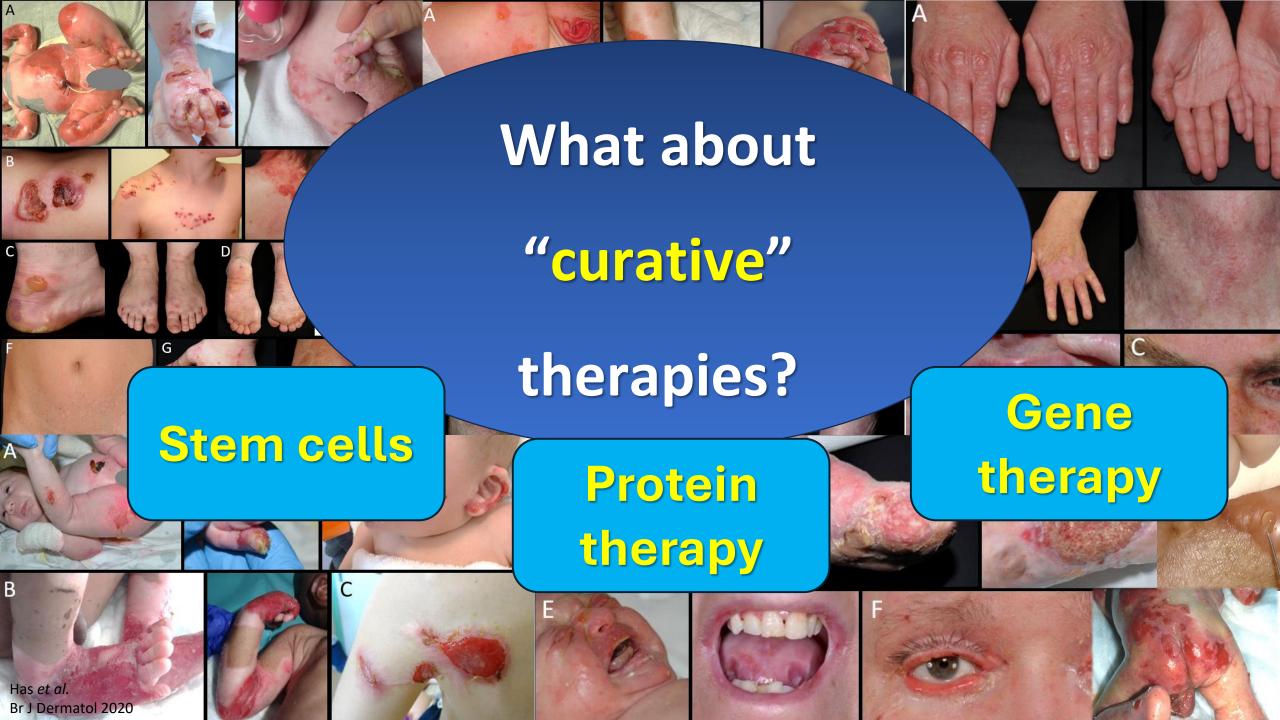


This presents a huge challenge for gene corrective therapies









Focus on Curing EB...



High mortality...... Mode of action?

The state of the s









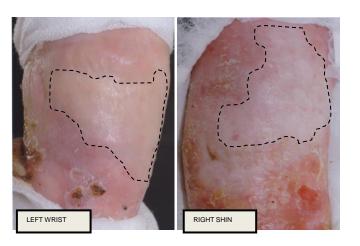








Revertant mosaicism – natural gene therapy



Grafting of cultured revertant keratinocytes

Gostynski *et al.*Br J Dermatol
2009

Punch grafting of revertant skin patches

Gostynski *et al.*J Am Acad
Dermatol 2014

The state of the s









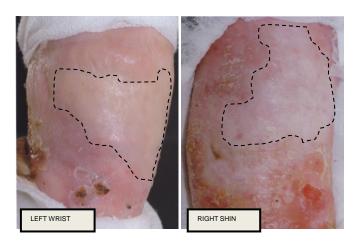








Revertant mosaicismnatural gene therapy



Cultured
epithelial
autografts
from
revertant
mosaic skin



Matsumura et al.
J Invest Dermatol 2019

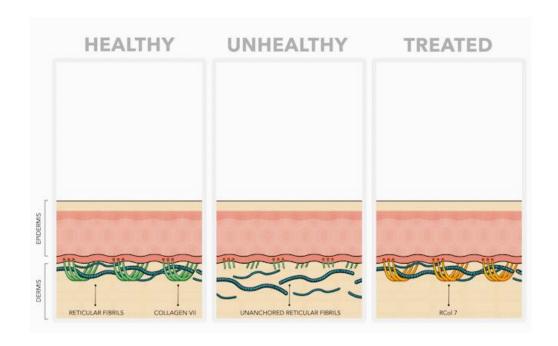
If the cause of RDEB is lack of type VII collagen

– why can't you just give patients recombinant protein?

Phoenix Tissue Repair

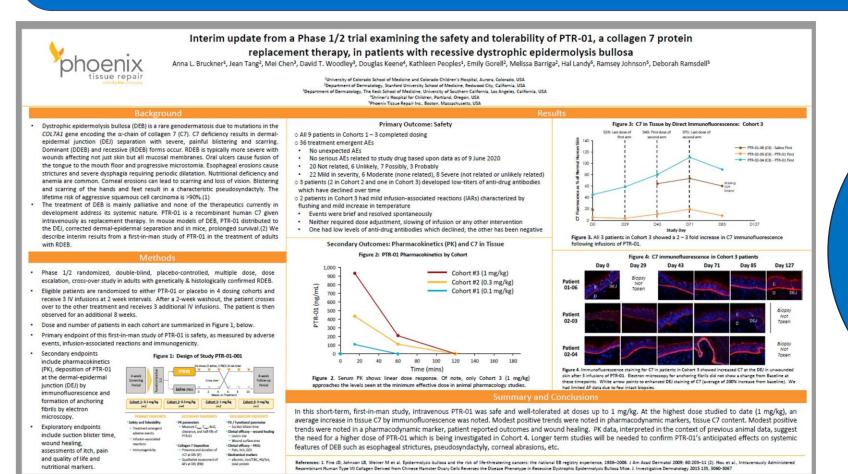
Intravenous type VII collagen injections

- First trial started in February 2019



If the cause of RDEB is lack of type VII collagen

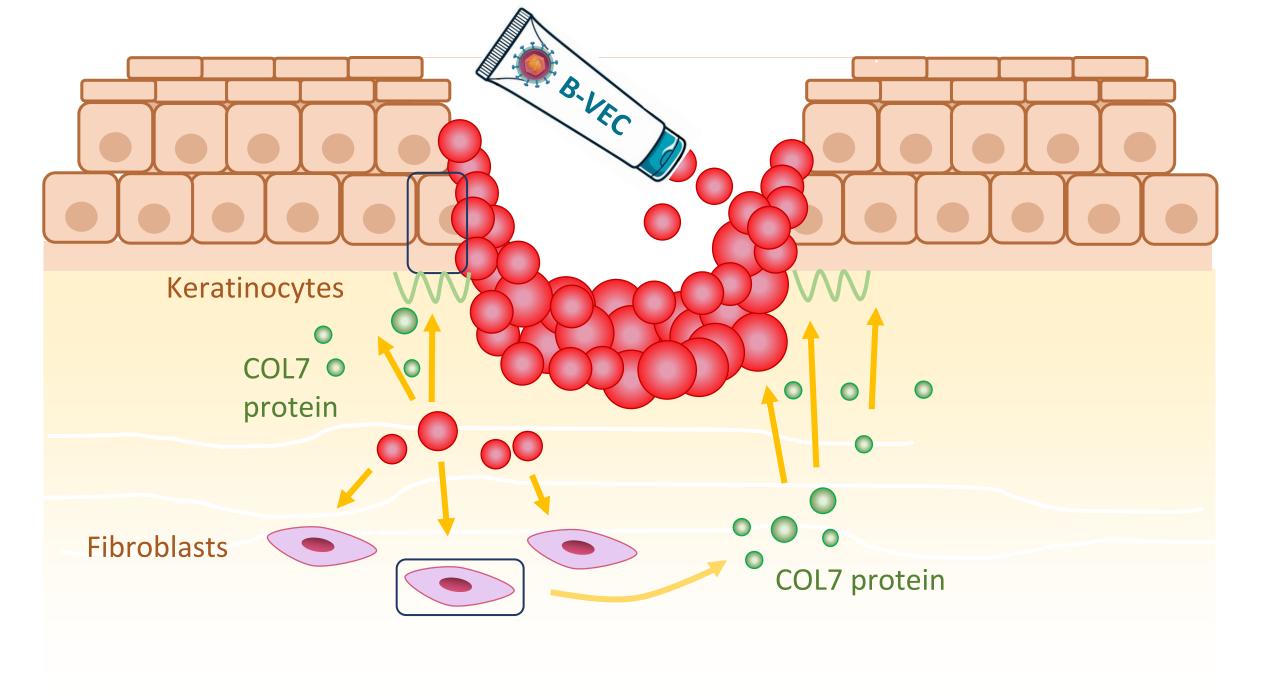
- why can't you just give patients recombinant protein?

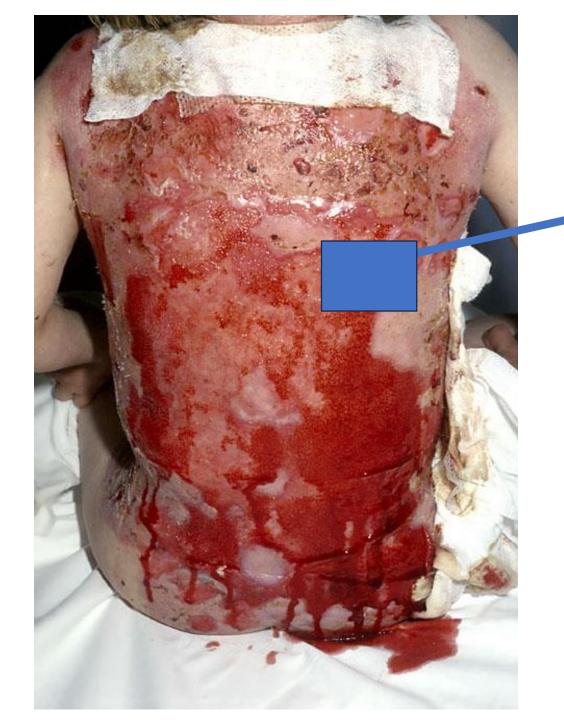


Possible value
for lymphoid
extracellular
matrix?

The big story for 2023/24...







You can only treat this small amount of eroded skin in one treatment

B-VEC/Vyjuvek eye drops may be helpful (but need clinical trials)



How realistic is Gene Therapy for EB?

There will be other HSV gene therapies in 2-3 years – topical and possibly systemic (via liver)

Other viruses (integrating) for gene replacement are being evaluated (COLTA1, LAMB3, COL17A1)



How realistic is Gene Therapy for EB?

Gene editing technologies are advancing but making sure they are safe is delaying use in clinic

Modifying genes by inducing exon skipping is also work in progress

Stabilizing RNA with Gentamicin?







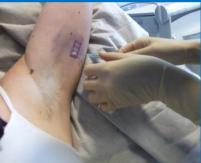








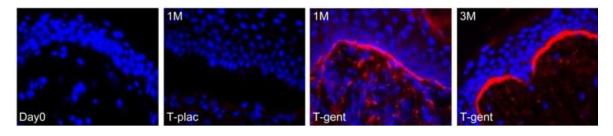




Gentamicin – as a form of gene therapy



TOPICAL 0.1%

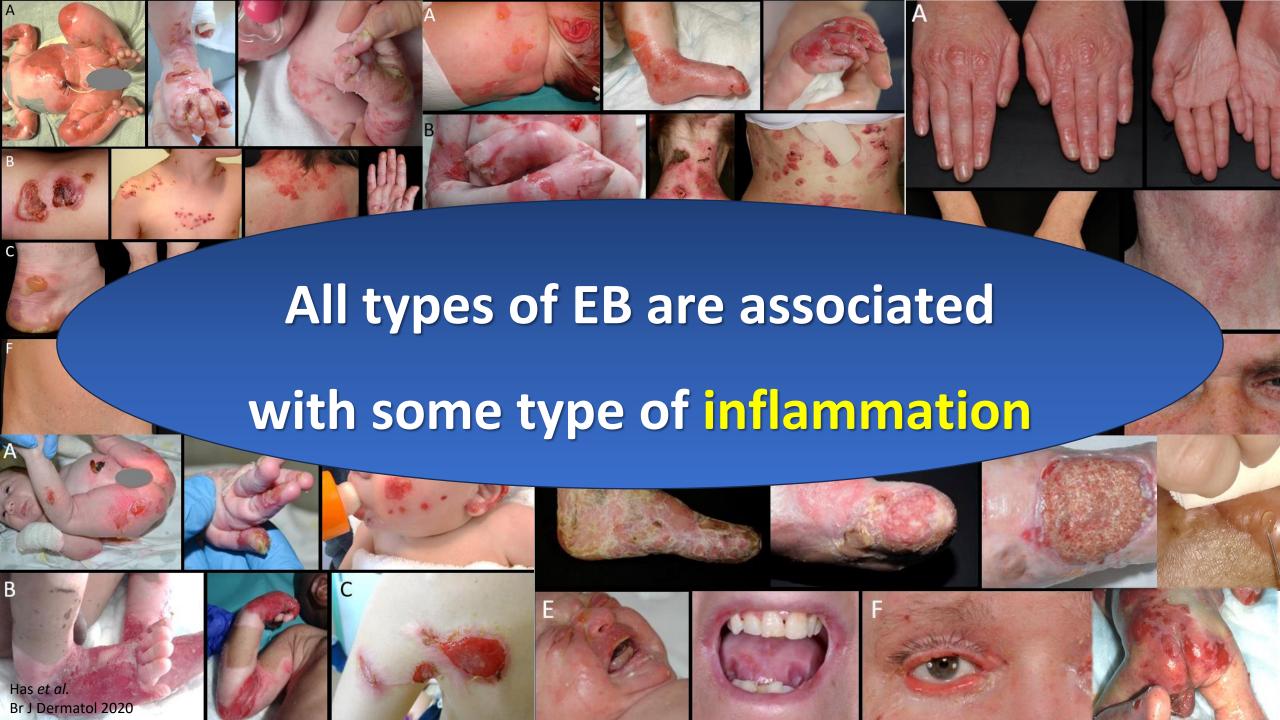


Restoration of type VII collagen in RDEB

Woodley et al. J Clin Invest 2017









90% sunflower oil 10% birch bark extract

Anti-inflammatory

Anti-microbial

Increase keratinocyte migration

Increase keratinocyte differentiation





Clinical trial data

Real world experience

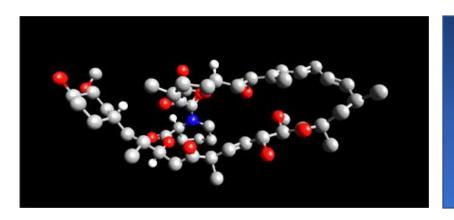


EB SIMPLEX

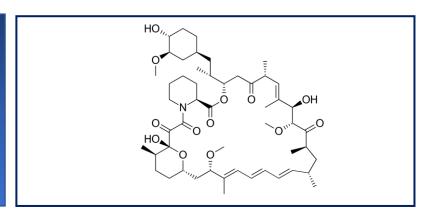


IL1B

Diacerin



Topical 2% Sirolimus in EB Simplex



PI3K/Akt/mTOR signalling pathway activation

Topical 2% sirolimus (also known as rapamycin, a potent mTOR inhibitor)

Two patients reported significant clinical improvement, with reduced blistering and keratoderma, improved walking, and reduced foot pain after 12 weeks of treatment

Lee et al.

Jinvest Dermatol 2022

EB SIMPLEX



Thymosin β4

Apremilast

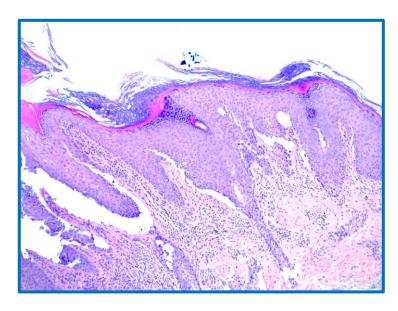
Tetracycline

Before treatment



After treatment

Ivermectin



EB simplex with Scabies

Lin et al. *J Dermatol* 2022

JUNCTIONAL EB



reduction
in granulation
tissue using
oral colchicine

Kim et al.
Int J Womens
Dermatol
2016





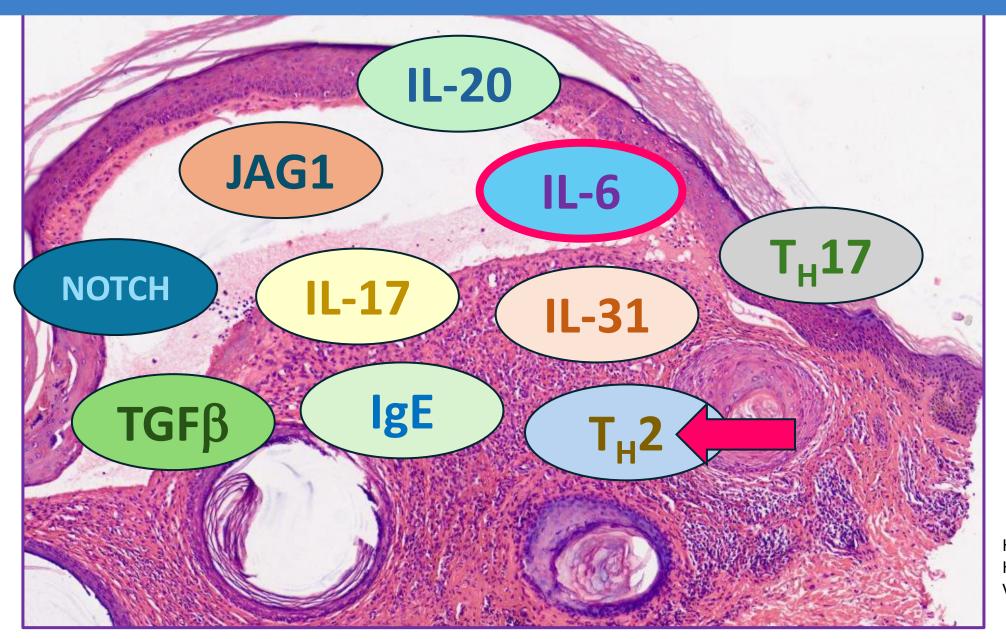


(SEVERE) DYSTROPHIC EB



Refinement of inflammatory profiling through multi-omic data...

DEB is an INFLAMMATORY disease: with identifiable targets



Histology image: Hassan Vahidnezhad



Dominant dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa is associated with glycolytically active *GATA3*⁺ T helper 2 cells which may contribute to pruritus in lesional skin

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Linked Article: Samuelov Br J Dermatol 2024: 191:159-160.

Abstract

Background Dominant dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (DDEB) is characterized by trauma-induced blisters and, pruritus. Precisely what causes itch in DDEB and optimal ways to reduce it have not been fully determined.

Objectives To characterize DDEB skin transcriptomes to identify therapeutic targets to reduce pruritus in patier Methods. Using bulk RNA sequencing, we evaluated affected and unaffected skin biopsy samples from six pativery itchy pruriginosa subtype) and four healthy individuals. Single-cell transcriptomes of affected (n=2) and unafhealthy skin (n=2) were obtained. Dupilumab treatment was provided for three patients.

Results The skin bulk transcriptome showed significant enrichment of T helper (Th)1/2 and Th17 pathways in al with nonlesional DDEB skin and healthy skin. Single-cell transcriptomics showed an association of glycolytical affected DDEB skin. Treatment with dupliumab in three people with DDEB led to significantly reduced visual ana after 12 weeks (mean VAS 3.83) compared with pretreatment (mean VAS 7.83). Bulk RNAseq and quantitative showed that healthy skin and dupliumab-treated epidermolysis bullosa (EB) pruriginosa skin have similar transcriptn[717] and Th17 pathway enrichment.

Conclusions Single-cell RNAseq helps define an enhanced DDEB-associated Th2 profile and rationalizes drug repulin treating DDEB pruritus:

Lay summary

Dominant dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (DDEB) is a rare inherited skin disease that causes fragile skin that blisters easily gered by minor injuries. These blisters are accompanied by intense itching, which can be distressing. The underlying cause of DD in genetic mutations in a gene called COLTA1. This gene encodes 'type VII collagen', a protein crucial for attaching the outer skin is (epidermis) to the layer beneath (dermis).

Although the genetic basis of DDEB is understood, the causes of itch are not known. As well as this, effective treatments for DDEB are lacking, which has driven scientists to explore innovative approaches like repurposing existing drugs. Drug repurposing involves using medications that have already been approved for other health conditions. One such drug is dupilumab, which is used for severe atopic

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Th2 response drives itch in dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa pruriginosa: A case-control study



To the Editor: Itch is the commonest skin complaint, and it is highly prevalent in the inherited blistering condition dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa (DEB). However, research into itch mechanisms beyond common skin conditions remains sparse. We conducted a case-control study aiming to elucidate molecular itch mechanisms in

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the extremely itchy DEB subtype known as DEB iginosa (DEB-P).²

DEB-P inflammation is confined to lesional skin

PhD. Natashia Benzian-Olsson. PbD, Alyson Guy, Han Lu, Kadiyirire, MRes, BSc, Ping-D. Wilson Aala, MSc, Sonia Rashida Pramanik, BSc. 8 Nina Konstantina Dimitrakopoulou, n, MBBS, PbD, Emily Kalfas, Roman Laddach, MRes," Cozzetto. PbD. Biorn Thomas. Evangelia Kesidou, PhD, Ellie amat, MBBS, PbD, Guy Orchard, Edel A. O'Toole, MB, BCb, PbD, Chao-Hsu, MD, J. Mansoor Saqi, PbD, Martin steinboff, MD, PhD, h Alexandros Onoufriadis, PbD, a,l Gil Yosipovitch, MD, Hannah Gould, BA, PbD," Jemima E. Mellerio, MBBS, MD," and John A. McGrath, MBBS, MD^a

J Am Acad Dermatol Volume 91, Number 1

2024, pp131-133

Drugs like dupilumab can help the itch

in some forms of dystrophic EB



Zhou et al. Ped Dermatol 2021

Itchy forms of dystrophic EB may also improve after oral Tofacitinib (JAK1/2 inhibition)

Before



After 4 weeks (5 mg bd)

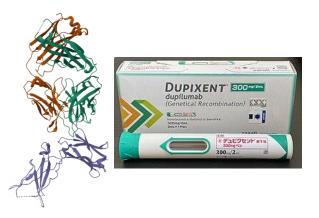


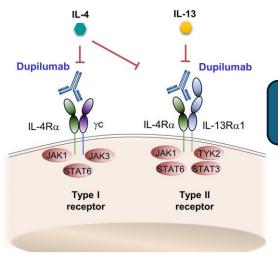


Chen et al.

Clin Exp Dermatol
2021







Real-world experience of using dupilumab and JAK inhibitors to manage pruritus in epidermolysis bullosa pruriginosa

Dear Editor,

Epidermolysis bullosa pruriginosa (EBP) is a form of dystrophic EB characterised by prurigo-like nodules. It is associated with severe pruritus¹ and exhibits skewed Th2 inflammation in both blood and lesional skin.² Controlling litch in EBP is a major clinical challenge. Over the last 4 years, anecdotal reports and series have highlighted the value of our duplumab or oral Janus kin baricitinib, upadacitinib and tof itch and improving the patie the current literature last tween the two treatmy changes following JA mented to date. Here

data in EBP skin profile the beneficial imp patients with EB dupilumab (300 m up to 14 months (treatment and post (NRS) were 7 (6.5-The overall clinical (Figure 1a). Moreovel in 2 further subjects wiresponse (see below all Based on the experience of JAKi in EBP, we treated

Skin Health Dis. 2024:4:e445.

https://doi.org/10.1002/ski2.445

both types of trea

(Supplementary Ta

to abrocitinib 200 mg/day for 1 month initially, subsequently reduced to 100 mg/day for a further 3 months, with a much better response (itch NRS: 7→0). The other patient initially had a good response following 3 months of dupilumab treatment (itch NRS: 8.5→3.5) but relapsed thereafter. She was re-treated with dupiluminimal response (given 7 months after the NRS: 6→5). She then changed to upavorally for 9 months with a major (itch NRS: 5→0). The prurigo le-

ed in number and were less One further EBP patient nptom relief after dupiluavailable itch NRS) but ed 1 year later with itch mg/day orally was response (itch NRS: Collectively, 6 pad JAKi in our study. ents with available 0% reduction in itch te relief (NRS = 0). available itch scores and Supplementary patient experienced nd one had a slightly dacitinib but no major No adverse events were

scriptomic changes following skin and peripheral blood using

Jeffs E et al. Orphanet J Rare Dis 2024

pruriginosa can also be

painful

60 years) who had shown minimal response to dupilumab with JAKi. One patient had responded poorly to 4 doses of dupilumab (itch NRS: 9→8) and was changed

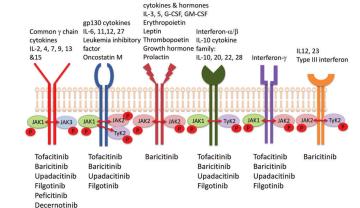
specimens were separated from the pre-treatment samples (Figure 1e). PathfindR enrichment analysis identified Th1/2 cell differentiation as the most enriched

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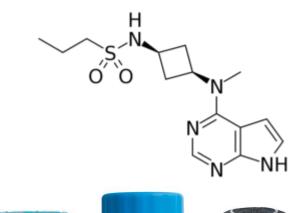
© 2024 The Author(s). Skin Health and Disease published by John Wiley & Sons Ltd on behalf of British Association of Dermatologists.







Common beta chain





NDC 00024182-30

(baricitinib) tablets

2 mg



Biologics and JAKi are also expensive

Repurposing of some cheaper drugs like

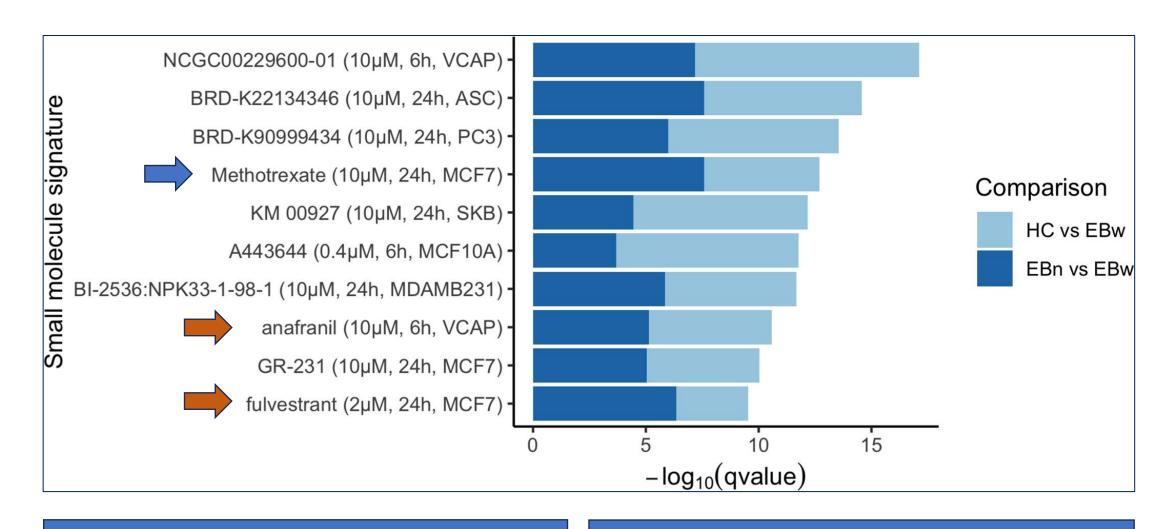
METHOTREXATE might be useful

What about re-purposing drugs to help patients with RDEB?





Onoufriadis et al. *Exp Dermatol*2022



Also on the list is SIMVASTATIN

STATINS to improve wound healing in RDEB?

Biologics and JAKi are not included in L1000FWD reverse transcriptomics

Growing anecdotal evidence of impact of these drugs for genodermatoses

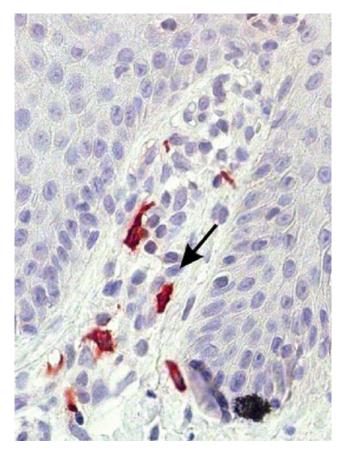
Clinical response of SAM syndrome (desmoglein 1 knockout) to Secukinumab





Frommherz et al. Br J Dermatol 2021

Increased IL-17 in lesional skin pre-treatment



The era of biologics for treating EB (and other genodermatoses)?

Dupilumab for genodermatoses

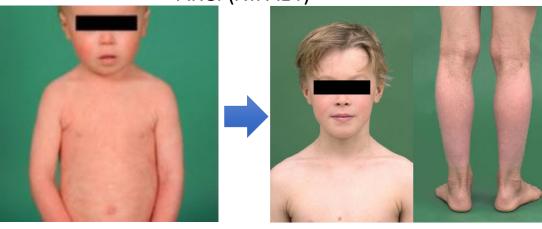
Hailey Hailey disease (ATP2C1)



Alzahrani et al. Br J Dermatol 2022

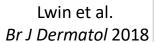
Ustekinumab for genodermatoses

ARCI (NIPAL4)



Poulton et al. Ped Dermatol 2019

PRP (CARD14)



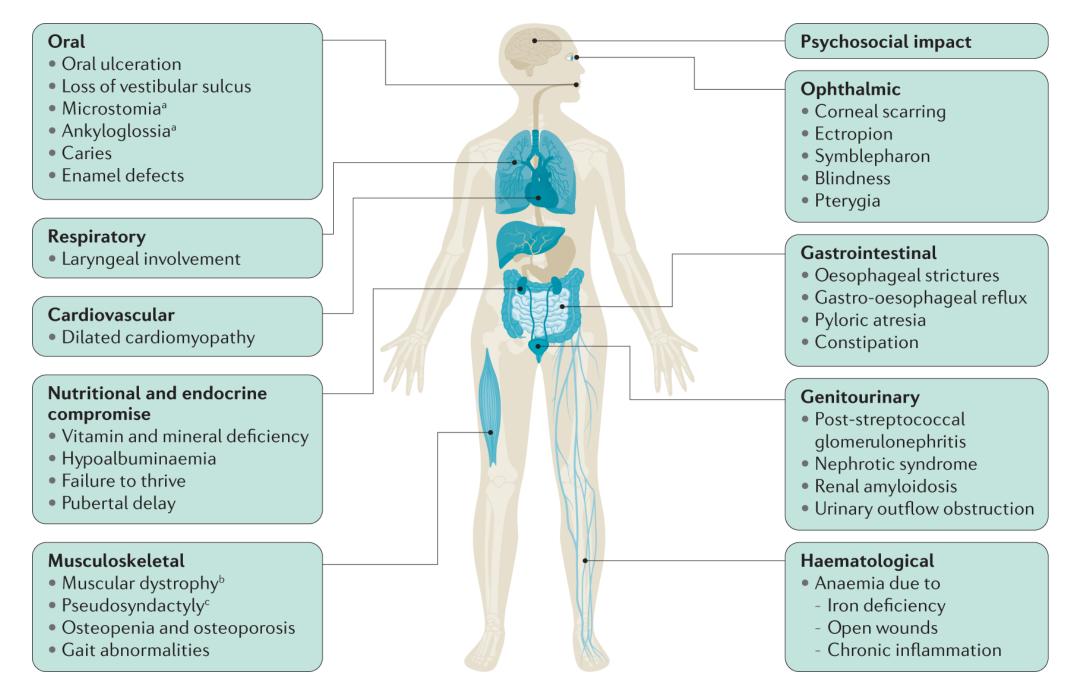


The use of biologics and JAKi for improved symptom control

Systemic Impact

The use of biologics and JAKi to

reset readiness for other interventions



Bardhan et al. Nat Rev Dis Primers 2020

Intravenous allogeneic mesenchymal stromal cells for RDEB

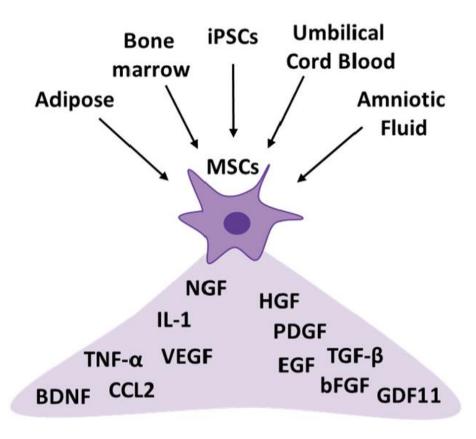


Petrof et al. J Invest Dermatol 2015



MISSION EB
clinical trial

RHEACELL clinical trials

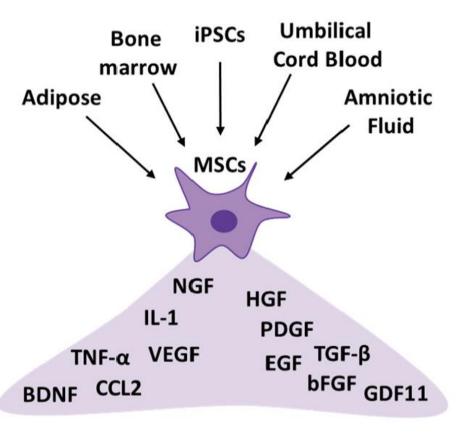


Jo et al. Int J Mol Sci 2021

MSCs work best in younger patients with milder disease

Pre-treatment or combination treatment with other anti-inflammatories

EXOSOMES?



Jo et al. Int J Mol Sci 2021

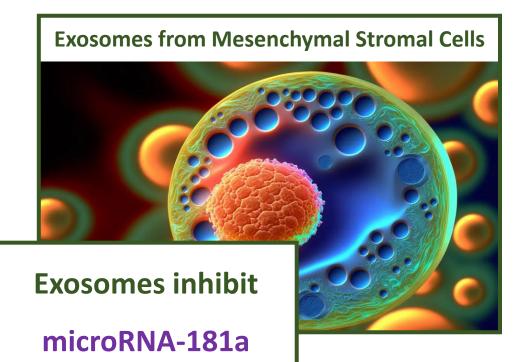
MSCs work best in younger patients with milder disease

Pre-treatment or combination treatment with other anti-inflammatories

EXOSOMES?

in wounds

and scar tissue



Chen *et al.*Arch Biochem Biophys 2023



Subject J







Challenges in identifying and quantifying the impact of MSCs

The importance of recording qualitative data

Optimal integration into clinical care?

Scarring/Fibrosis in DEB



Lessons about inflammation from phenotypically discordant twins with RDEB

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{Enhanced} \\ \text{TGF}\beta \\ \text{signalling} \end{array}$

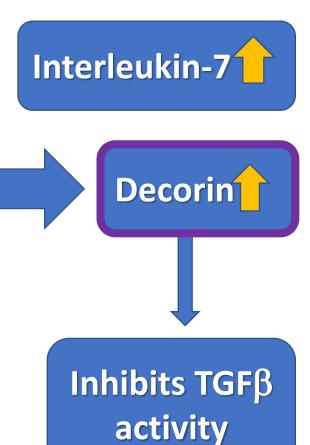
Interleukin-6

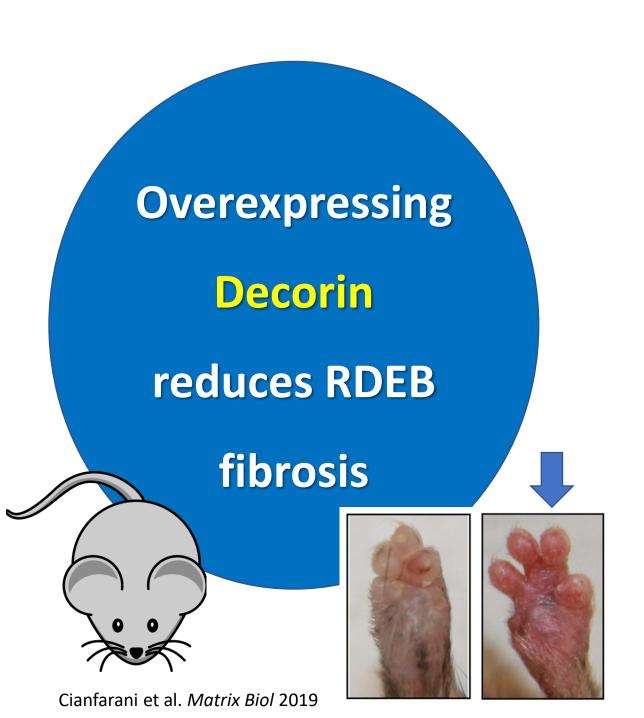
Monocyte
Chemoattractant
Protein-1

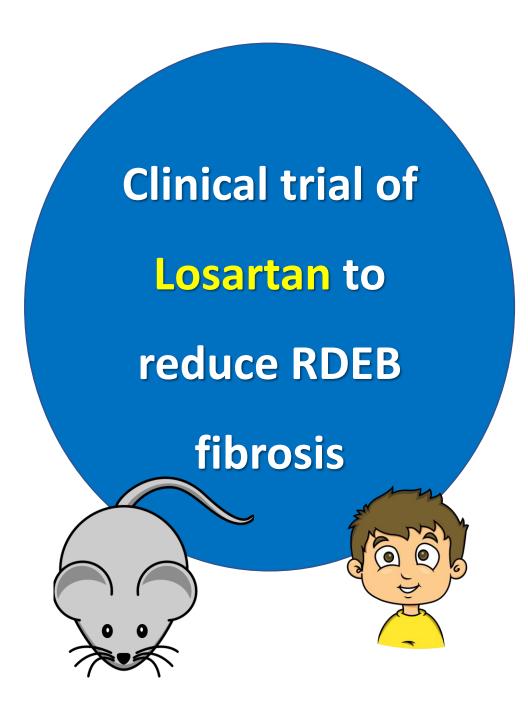


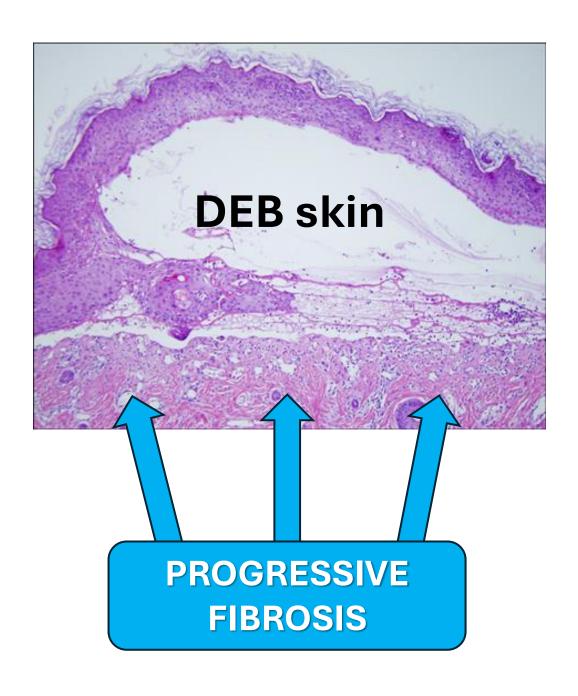


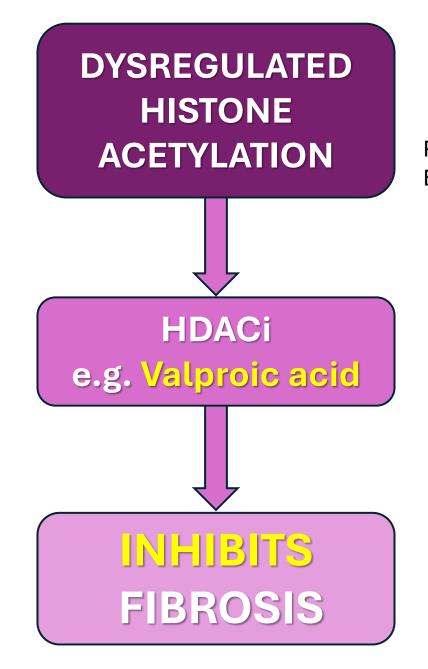
Odorisio et al. Hum Mol Genet 2014











Primerano *et al*. Br J Dermatol 2024 Approvals process?

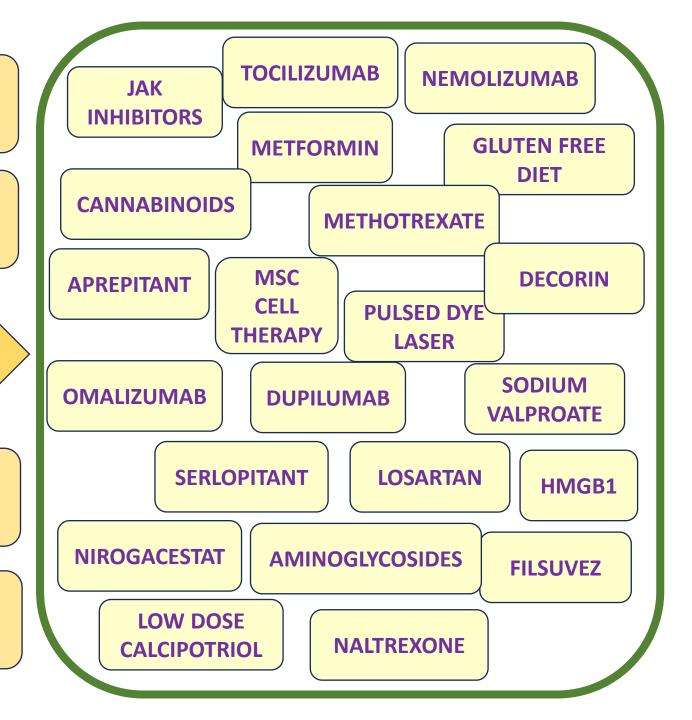
What level of evidence?

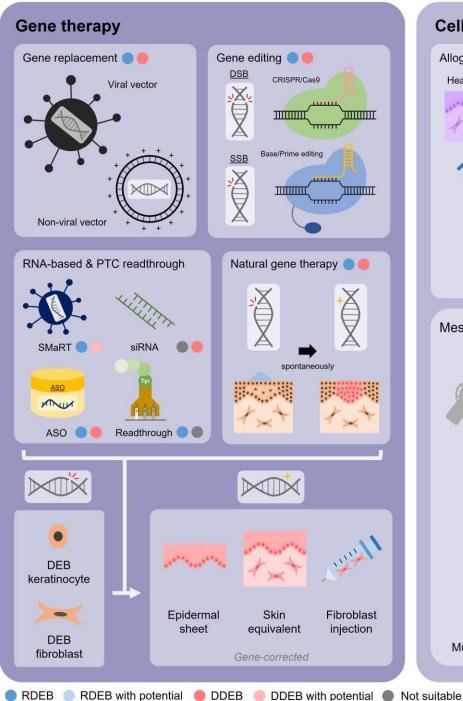
PATIENTS

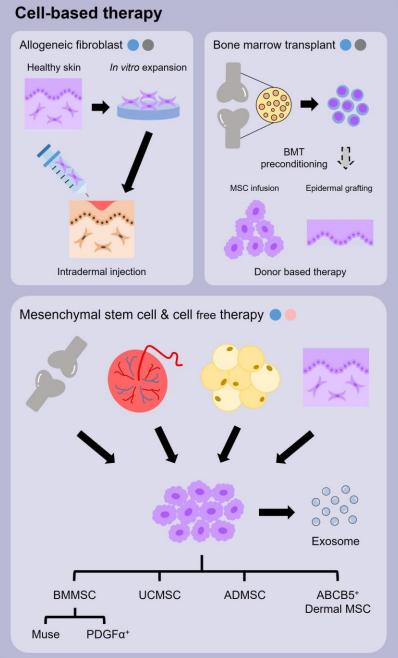
HOW?

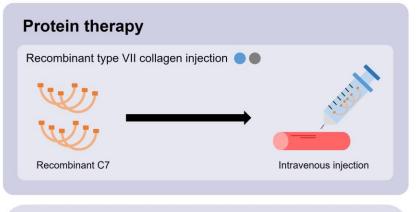
Are clinical trials needed?

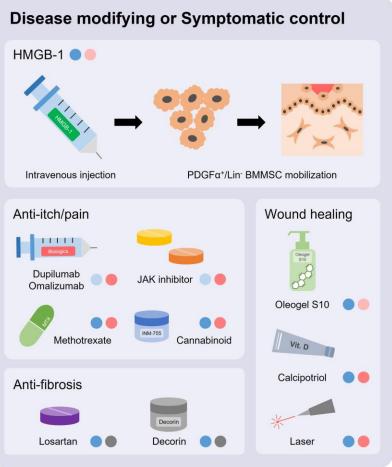
Who pays for it all?











If I had RDEB, what would I be trying to get access to in 2024?

Binent

Oral Losartan Intravenous MSCs

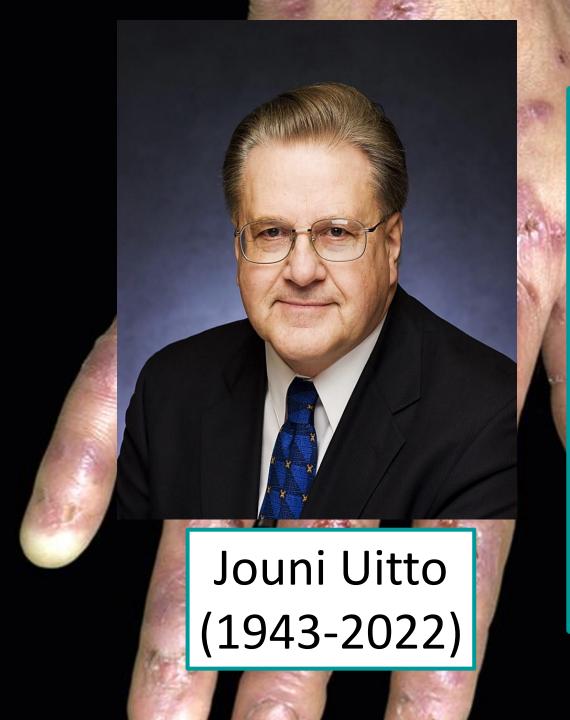
Biologics for itch relief

Revertant cell therapy

Intravenous HMGB1

Test of amino glycosides

Oleogel for wounds



... I am enthusiastic that we are approaching breakthroughs toward phenotypic alleviation and possibly eventual cure.....

