

## Clinicopathological Analysis of 27 Cases of Pemphigus from Jordan: A Retrospective Study

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### ABSTRACT

Pemphigus is a serious blistering disorder with a rare presentations sometimes. Limited data exists on the clinicopathological features and treatment outcomes of pemphigus in Middle Eastern populations, particularly from Jordan. To analyze the clinical, histopathological features, treatment response and types of pemphigus in a group of our patients in Jordan. This retrospective cohort study analyzed 27 pemphigus cases diagnosed and treated between January 2015 and January 2025 across multiple medical centers in Jordan. Patient data included age, gender, pemphigus subtypes, clinical presentations, histopathological findings, treatment regimens, and therapeutic responses were collected and analyzed using SPSS version 25. Of the 27 patients (age range: 18-70 years, mean: 47.81 years), 19 (70.4%) were female. Pemphigus vulgaris was the predominant subtype (63%), followed by pemphigus foliaceus (29.6%), pemphigus erythematosus (3.7%), and pemphigus herpetiformis (3.7%). Mucocutaneous involvement was observed in 76% of pemphigus vulgaris cases. Histopathologically, suprabasal acantholysis characterized pemphigus vulgaris, while pemphigus foliaceus cases revealed subcorneal/intragranular acantholysis. Direct immunofluorescence was positive in 88.9% of cases. Patients receiving rituximab with prednisolone (18.5%) demonstrated superior clinical response with earlier steroid tapering compared to conventional immunosuppressive therapy. Diagnostic delays occurred in several cases, including two initially misdiagnosed as Behçet's disease and one pemphigus herpetiformis case undiagnosed for five years. This study highlights the clinical spectrum and treatment outcomes of pemphigus in a Jordanian population. Rituximab demonstrated strong efficacy and safety. Early recognition and accurate diagnosis are essential to optimize patient outcomes.

**Keywords:** Pemphigus vulgari, Pemphigus foliaceus, Acantholysis, Rituximab, Jordan

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