

## The Many Faces of Urticaria

*M. Gantcheva*

*Institute of Experimental Morphology, Pathology and Anthropology with Museum,  
Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia*

Urticaria is a heterogeneous group of diseases that result from a large variety of underlying causes. It is characterized by the development of wheals, angioedema, or both. Urticaria needs to be differentiated from other medical conditions where hives and angioedema can occur as a symptom. Urticaria and angioedema may have diverse pathogenesis and clinical course and are usually the clinical consequence of vasoactive mediators derived from mast cells in the skin or mucosal tissues. Skin biopsies from lesions are important to make an appropriate diagnosis and particular therapy. Our cases demonstrate that predominance of lymphocytes and neutrophils in histological examination is important for therapeutic response. Antihistamines may not work if the infiltrate consists mainly of neutrophils. In such cases the right answer could be treatment with colchicin, dapsone or short course with steroids.

*Key words:* urticaria, angioedema.