What is PRP?

Pityriasis rubra pilaris (PRP) is a rare and chronic skin disorder that often appears suddenly. Symptoms may include reddish-orange patches on the skin, severe flaking, uncomfortable itching, and thickening of the skin. For some, early symptoms may also include generalized swelling of the legs, feet and other parts of the body. PRP has a varied clinical progression and a varied rate of improvement.

Dr. W.A.D. Griffiths, a British dermatologist, classified six forms of PRP in the early 1980s. At this time, the causes of PRP are still unknown and symptoms can be difficult to diagnose. Sometimes more than one medical professional will be consulted before an accurate PRP diagnosis is made.

Dermatologists have identified both an acquired form and an inherited form (familial) of PRP and have described them in highly-regarded medical journals. The acquired form usually shows a spontaneous or gradual remission of symptoms within several years although long-term symptoms may continue for years. The inherited form starts early in childhood with persistent long-term symptoms into adulthood.

Although most people who develop PRP are over age 50, individuals of any age, race, and nationality can be affected. Women and men seem to be equally affected.


What is the PRP Support Group?

The primary goal of the Support Group is to provide a caring forum where people can share information about PRP; including their experiences, anxieties, questions and treatment options. In addition to mutual support and understanding, there is significant advice and information regarding day-to-day care and medical treatment. We are highly informed but strongly recommend that a specific diagnosis and treatment plan be developed in consultation with your personal physician.

We have an international membership with people from all corners of the globe. In addition to those diagnosed with PRP, the support group includes and welcomes spouses, partners, families and friends.

The support group was formed in 1997 with kind and compassionate leadership provided by Jean-Luc Deslauriers until his unexpected death in 2003. He lived in New Brunswick, Canada.

To become a member, ask questions or seek further information, go to: www.prp-support.org