

Question 14 – Week of February 8

Which of the following vitamins should be replaced in a patient receiving TPN who presents with a scaly red blistering eruption around the mouth and in the groin, along with alopecia?

- A. Niacin
- B. Zinc
- C. Vitamin C
- D. Thiamine
- E. Vitamin B12

Answer: B

A scaly red blistering eruption, located in the groin and the perioral area is characteristic of acrodermatitis enteropathica, caused by a deficiency of zinc. Alopecia is also often present. This condition is most commonly seen in children with congenital metabolic abnormalities, alcoholics with cirrhosis, Crohn's disease, and patients on TPN without adequate supplementation. The skin findings and the alopecia rapidly resolve with adequate zinc replacement.