

**Omid Zargari, M.D.**  
**Consultant Dermatologist**  
**Booali Medical Group, Rasht, Iran**  
**Email: ozargari@iranderma.com**

## **Iranderma.com: What's next after 5 years?**

Internet use has grown rapidly in Iran, but there has been little information about how Iranian Internet users gather medical information through this medium. To evaluate the attitudes of Iranian patients with skin problems towards using Internet as a medical resource, we conducted a study over a three-month period in 2003 attending a private dermatology clinic for chronic skin disease. The results of that study revealed that about one third of the urban population of Iran has access to Internet, but less than 5% of them use it to gather medical information.

Having in the meanwhile created and expanded Iranderma ([www.iranderma.com](http://www.iranderma.com)) with both English and Farsi pages devoted to dermatology, we repeated the study over the same 3 month time period 3 years after the initial study to measure the impact of Iranderma and other new websites on Iranian patients' use of the Internet as a medical resource. The results and the features of Iranderma.com will be presented at the meeting.

## **Granulomatous diseases of the nose**

The nose is an almost pyramidal structure with its apex projecting anteriorly and its base attached to the facial skeleton. It is an important structure in air passage and has also an essential role in perception of odors, a sensation that undoubtedly adds the quality of life. Furthermore, because of its central position in frontal view and its prominence in profile view, it has a great role in aesthetics of the human.

Therefore, diseases of the nose are usually considered very important for the patients. There are some conditions that for known or unknown reasons involve predominantly the nose. Many of the granulomatous diseases are among these conditions.

For infectious granulomatous diseases, a possible explanation is that the nasal mucosa is the primary site of entry of the causative organism. The vascular structure of the nose might be another contributing factor. There are also some similarities from the point of etiopathogenesis; many of these diseases are antigen-mediated, though the culprit antigen may be still unknown. Another interesting point is that some of these granulomatous diseases, are indeed among the diseases called "the great imitators"; syphilis, tuberculosis and sarcoidosis are three major dermatological masqueraders which has a trend for involving the nasal structure and may mimics other diseases.

