Differential Diagnosis in Derm

Andrei Metelitsa, MD, FRCPC, FAAD
Co-Director, Institute for Skin Advancement
Clinical Associate Professor, Dermatology
University of Calgary, Canada
Faculty/Presenter Disclosure

- **Faculty**: Andrei Metelitsa

- **Relationships with commercial interests:**
  - **Speakers Bureau/Honoraria**: none
  - **Consulting Fees**: none
Disclosure of Commercial Support

**Potential for conflict(s) of interest:**

- Dr. Andrei Metelitsa has no conflicts for this lecture
Learning Objectives

- Recognize common primary skin lesions
- Recognize cutaneous patterns
Macule

- Flat (non-palpable), differs in color from surrounding skin
- <1 cm in diameter
- Often hypo- or hyperpigmented, but also other colors (e.g. pink, red, violet)
Patch – a large macule

Courtesy, Julie V Schaffer, MD.
Papule

- a solid raised lesion that has distinct borders and is less than 1 cm in diameter
Plaque

- a solid, raised lesion greater than 1 cm
Nodule

- a raised solid lesion more than 1 cm
- Involves dermis and/or subcutaneous tissue
Vesicle

- raised lesions less than 1 cm. in diameter that are filled with clear fluid
Bullae

- circumscribed fluid-filled lesions that are greater than 1 cm
Pustule

- circumscribed elevated lesions that contain pus
Wheal

- Transient elevation of the skin due to dermal edema
- Often erythematous rim
Tumor

- a solid mass of the skin or subcutaneous tissue; it is larger than a nodule.
Burrow

- linear lesions produced by infestation of the skin and formation of tunnels
Telangiectasia

- permanent dilatation of superficial blood vessels in the skin
Red purple lesions that result from extravasation of blood into skin
Secondary Lesions
Scale

- Hyperkeratosis
- Accumulation of stratum corneum due to delayed desquamation
Crust

- Dried serum, pus, or blood
- May include bacteria
Atrophy

- Epidermal – thinning of epidermis with wrinkling or shiny appearance
- Dermal - presents as depression
Lichenification

- Accentuation of normal skin lines (epidermis thickening)
- Usually due to chronic rubbing or scratching
Erosion

- Epidermal partial loss
Ulceration

- Full thickness loss of epidermis
Excoriation

- traumatized or abraded skin caused by scratching or rubbing
Fissure

- linear cleavage of skin which extends into the dermis
Patterns and distribution
Papulosquamous

- ‘Scaling papule’
- DDx: Psoriasis, pityriasis Rosea, PLEVA/PLC, lichen planus, pityriasis rubra, tinea, syphilis, mycosis fungoides
Photodistributed

- Exposed to the sun
Erythrodermic

- Red, head to toe
- Fine desquamation
- DDx: psoriasis, atopic dermatitis, drug eruption, mycosis fungoides
Annular

- Ring shape

- DDx: granuloma annulare, sarcoid, tinea, urticaria, nummular dermatitis, erythema multiforme, EAC, linear IgA
Morbilliform

- a rash that looks like measles
- macular lesions that are red and are usually 2-10 mm in diameter but may be confluent in places
Reticular

Erythema ab igne

Livedo reticularis
Folliculocentric

- involve the hair follicle
Clustered

- grouped
Zosteriform

- dermatomal
Discrete

- lesions tend to remain separate
Eczematous

- Inflamed with a tendency toward clustering, oozing, or crusting
- ‘Boiling over’
Targetoid

- Target like
Linear

- in a line or band-like configuration
Serpiginous

- as though following the track of a snake
Universalis

- affects the entire skin
Koebnerized

- the appearance of lesions along a site of injury
- lichen planus, warts, molluscum contagiosum, psoriasis, vitiligo
Satellite

- surrounded by numerous, smaller red macules located adjacent to the body of the main lesions
verrucous

- warty
ichthyosiform

- Fish-scales
PEARLs

- Primary lesions – macule, patch, papule, plaque, nodule, vesicle, bullae, pustule, wheal
- Secondary lesions – crust, scale, fissure, excoriation, erosion, ulcer, atrophy
- Patterns of eruptions: photodistributed, linear, discrete, annular, papulosquamous, erythrodermic, morbilliform, reticular, follicular, targetoid