

# **Differential Diagnosis in Derm**

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

# Copyright © 2017 by Sea Courses Inc.

All rights reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, copied, stored, or transmitted in any form or by any means – graphic, electronic, or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, or information storage and retrieval systems without prior written permission of Sea Courses Inc. except where permitted by law.

Sea Courses is not responsible for any speaker or participant's statements, materials, acts or omissions.

# 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

# Primary Lesions

# 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)



Copyright © 2018, Elsevier Limited. All rights reserved.

# Patch – a large macule



*Courtesy, Julie V Schaffer, MD.*

# Papule



Courtesy, Louis A Fragola, Jr, MD.

- 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



*Courtesy, Luis Requena, MD.*

- circumscribed elevated lesions that contain pus

# Wheal

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



*Courtesy, Jeffrey P Callen, MD.*

# 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

# Petechiae/Purpura



- Red purple lesions that result from extravasation of blood into skin

# Secondary Lesions

# Scale

- Hyperkeratosis
- Accumulation of stratum corneum due to delayed desquamation



*Courtesy, Julie V Schaffer, MD.*

# Crust

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



# Atrophy

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



Courtesy, A Hernández-Martín, MD.

# Lichenification

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



Courtesy, Julie V Schaffer, MD.

# Erosion

- Epidermal partial loss



# Ulceration

- Full thickness loss of epidermis



Copyright © 2018, Elsevier Limited. All rights reserved.

# Excoriation

- traumatized or abraded skin caused by scratching or rubbing



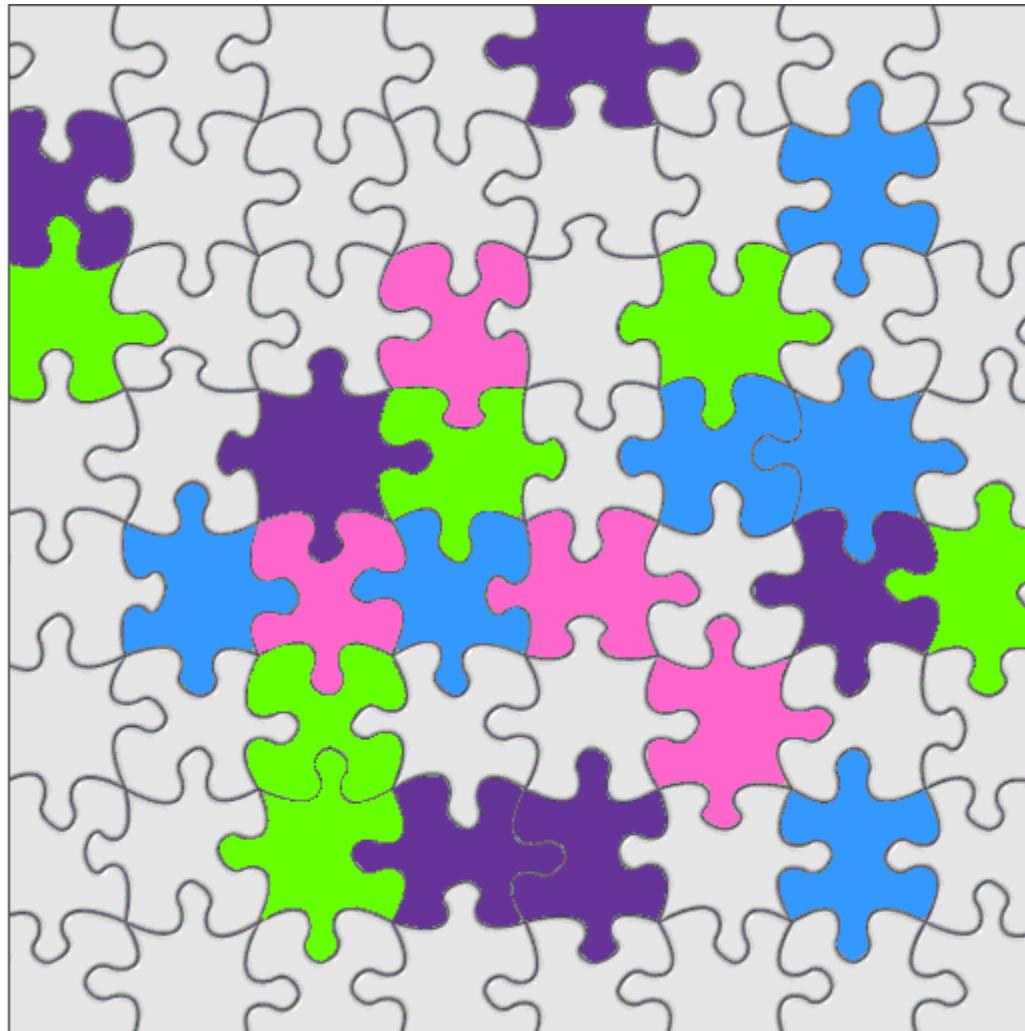
Copyright © 2018, Elsevier Limited. All rights reserved.

# 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



Copyright © 2018, Elsevier Limited. All rights reserved.

# 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

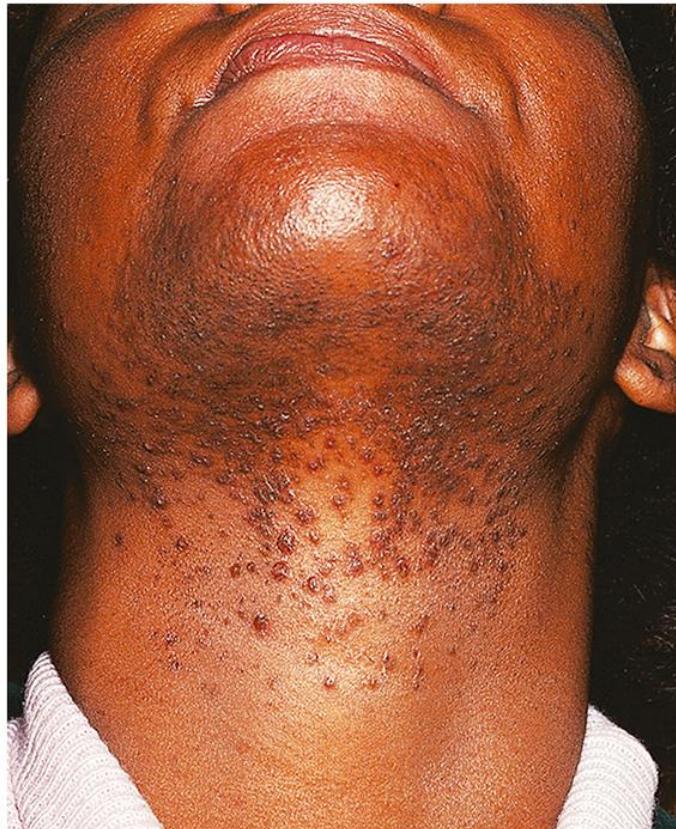


Erythema ab igne



Livedo reticularis

# Folliculocentric



Copyright © 2018, Elsevier Limited. All rights reserved.

- involve the hair follicle

# Clustered



- grouped

# Zosteriform



- dermatomal

# Discrete



- lesions tend to remain separate

# Eczematous



Courtesy of Kenneth E. Greer. Permission denied to download or reproduce in any manner.

- 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



Copyright © 2018, Elsevier Limited. All rights reserved.

- **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