Diagnosing Skin Disorders

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using

Clinical Dermatology
A COLOR GUIDE TO DIAGNOSIS AND THERAPY , 4th Edition

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Diagnostic Method

- **Subjective history on current & other disorders**
  - Duration: continuous, recurrent, worsening
  - Aggravating and relieving factors
  - Location and extent of eruption
  - Previous skin disorders
  - Family and social history

- **Objective examination**
  - Generalized: Is this patient otherwise healthy?
  - Focused on *skin lesions*
Types of Skin Lesions

- **Primary skin lesions** develop first but might last only briefly and might be absent at the time of examination.

- **Secondary skin lesions** develop afterwards and are usually present at examination.

- **Special skin lesions** are unique to disorder.
Primary Skin Lesions

- Macule
- Nodule and Tumor
- Papule
- Plaque
- Pustule
- Vesicle
- Bulla
- Wheal

Secondary Skin Lesions

- Scales
- Erosion
- Atrophy & Scar
- Ulcer
- Fissure
- Crust

Special Skin Lesions

- Excoriation
- Milia
- Comedone
- Cyst
- Burrow
- Lichenification
- Telangiectasia
- Petichia and Purpura
Primary Skin Lesion

**Macule** is a circumscribed, flat discoloration that is brown, blue, red, or hypopigmented.

**Brown Macules**
- Becker's nevus (p. 780)
- Café-au-lait spot (p. 694)
- Erythrasma (p. 419)
- Fixed drug eruption (p. 492)
- Freckle (p. 691)
- Junction nevus (p. 774)
- Lentigo (p. 691)
- Lentigo maligna (p. 794)
- Melasma (p. 692)
- Photoallergic drug eruption
- Phototoxic drug eruption
- Stasis dermatitis (p. 73)
- Tinea nigra palmaris

**Blue Macules**
- Ink (tattoo)
- Maculae ceruleae (lice)
- Mongolian spot
- Ochronosis

**Red Macules**
- Drug eruptions (p. 485)
- Juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
- Rheumatic fever
- Secondary syphilis (p. 318)
- Viral exanthems (p. 473)

**Hypopigmented Macules**
- Idiopathic guttate hypomelanosis
- Nevus anemicus (p. 690)
- Piebaldism
- Postinflammatory psoriasis
- Radiation dermatitis
- Tinea versicolor (p. 451)
- Tuberous sclerosis (p. 690)
- Vitiligo (p. 684)
Lentigo is a very common macule.

Is this a melanoma?

- **A**symmetry
- **B**orders irregular
- **C**olor or **C**ontour irregular
- **D**iameter greater than 6 mm
- **E**nlargement and **E**volution
- **F**unny looking, like an ugly duckling (Grob and Bonerandi. The ‘ugly duckling’ sign: identification of the common characteristics of nevi in an individual as the basis for melanoma screening. Arch Dermatol. 1998; 134: 103-4.)
Where is the Ugly Duckling?

Figure 1. The "ugly duckling" nevus in case 1 deserves special attention, whereas a similar nevus would be considered normal in case 2, since most nevi share the same features. Conversely, the ugly duckling nevus in case 2 would be considered normal in case 1.
**Primary Skin Lesion**

**Papule** is an elevated solid lesion up to 0.5 cm in diameter; color varies; papules might fuse to form plaques

### Flesh-colored or White Papules
- Achrochordon (skin tag) ([p. 706](#))
- Basal cell epithelioma ([p. 724](#))
- Closed comedone (acne) ([p. 171](#))
- Flat warts ([p. 373](#))
- Lichen sclerosis et atrophicus ([p. 257](#))
- Milium ([p. 194](#))
- Molluscum contagiosum ([p. 379](#))
- Nevi (dermal) ([p. 776](#))
- Neurofibroma ([p. 906](#))
- Sebaceous hyperplasia ([p. 720](#))

### Brown Papules
- Dermatofibroma ([p. 708](#))
- Keratosis follicularis
- Melanoma ([p. 786](#))
- Nevi ([p. 774](#))
- Seborrheic keratosis ([p. 698](#))
- Urticaria pigmentosa ([p. 156](#))
- Warts ([p. 371](#))

### Red Papules
- Atopic dermatitis ([p. 107](#))
- Cat-scratch disease ([p. 528](#))
- Cherry angioma ([p. 824](#))
- Chondrodermatitis helicis
- Eczema ([p. 414](#))
- Folliculitis ([p. 279](#))
- Insect bites ([p. 534](#))
- Miliaria ([p. 205](#))
- Pyogenic granuloma ([p. 826](#))
- Scabies ([p. 500](#))

### Blue or violaceous
- Angiokeratoma ([p. 824](#))
- Blue nevus ([p. 782](#))
- Lichen planus ([p. 250](#))
- Kaposi's sarcoma ([pp. 365 & 827](#))
- Melanoma ([p. 786](#))
- Mycosis fungoides ([p. 754](#))
- Venous lake ([p. 825](#))
Primary Skin Lesion
This one is a Melanoma.

- **A**symmetry
- **B**orders irregular
- **C**olor or **C**ontour irregular
- **D**iameter greater than 6 mm
- **E**nlargement and **E**volution
- **F**unny looking like an
  
  *ugly duckling*
Primary Skin Lesions
More Papules
Wart

Seborrheic_keratosis

Molluscum_contagiosum
Primary Skin Lesions

Plaque, a circumscribed, elevated, superficial, solid lesion more than 0.5 cm in diameter, often formed by the confluence of papules

- Eczema (p. 45)
- Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma
- Paget's disease (p. 763)
- Sweet's syndrome (p. 650)
- Papulosquamous (papular and scaling) lesions
- Discoid lupus erythematosus
- Lichen planus (p. 250)
- Pityriasis rosea (p. 246)
- Psoriasis (p. 210)
- Seborrheic dermatitis
- Syphilis (secondary)
- Tinea corporis (p. 420)
- Tinea pedis (p. 413)
- Tinea versicolor (p. 451)
Primary Skin Lesions

Plaques

Eczema

Pityriasis rosea

Syphilis (secondary)

Psoriasis
Primary Skin Lesions

Nodule, a circumscribed, elevated, solid lesion more than 0.5 cm in diameter; a large nodule is referred to as a tumor

- Basal cell carcinoma (p. 724)
- Erythema nodosum (p. 635)
- Furuncle (p. 284)
- Hemangioma (p. 815)
- Kaposi's sarcoma (pp. 365)
- Keratoacanthoma (p. 711)
- Lipoma
- Lymphoma
- Melanoma (p. 786)
- Metastatic carcinoma (p. 766)
- Cutaneous T-cell lymphoma
- Neurofibromatosis (p. 906)
- Prurigo nodularis (p. 68)
- Sporotrichosis
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Warts (p. 371)
- Xanthoma (p. 904)
Primary Skin Lesions

Nodules
Basal cell carcinoma
Squamous cell carcinoma
Keratoacanthoma
Hemangioma
Primary Skin Lesions

Pustule, a circumscribed collection of leukocytes and free fluid that varies in size.

- Acne (p. 172)
- Candidiasis (p. 446)
- Chicken pox (p. 39)
- Dermatophyte infection
- Dyshidrosis (p. 58)
- Folliculitis (p. 279)
- Gonococcemia (p. 333)
- Hidradenitis suppurativa
- Herpes simplex (p. 382)
- Herpes zoster (p. 395)
- Impetigo (p. 268)
- Keratosis pilaris (p. 116)
- Pseudomonas folliculitis
- Psoriasis (p. 213)
- Pyoderma gangrenosum
- Rosacea (p. 198)
- Scabies (p. 500)
Primary Skin Lesions - Pustules

- Folliculitis
- Impetigo
- Acne
Primary Skin Lesions

Vesicle, a circumscribed collection of free fluid up to 0.5 cm in diameter

- Benign familial chronic pemphigus
- Cat-scratch disease (p. 528)
- Chicken pox (p. 390)
- Dermatitis herpetiformis
- Eczema (acute) (p. 42)
- Erythema multiforme (p. 629)
- Herpes simplex (p. 382)
- Herpes zoster (p. 395)
- Impetigo (p. 268)
- Lichen planus
- Pemphigus foliaceus
- Porphyria cutanea tarda
- Scabies (p. 500)
**Primary Skin Lesions**

**Bulla**, a circumscribed collection of free fluid more than 0.5 cm in diameter

- Bullae in diabetics
- Bullous pemphigoid
- Cicatricial pemphigoid
- Epidermolysis bullosa acquisita ([p. 574](#))
- Fixed drug eruption
- Herpes gestationis
- Lupus erythematosus
- Pemphigus ([p. 561](#))
Primary Skin Lesion

Vesicles

Acute eczema

Erythema multiforme

Herpes zoster
Primary Skin Lesion

Wheal (hive), a firm edematous plaque resulting from infiltration of the dermis with fluid; wheals are transient and may last a few hours

- Angioedema (p. 147)
- Dermographism
- Hives (p. 130)
- Cholinergic urticaria
- Urticaria pigmentosa
Secondary Skin Lesions

Scales, excess dead epidermal cells that are produced by abnormal keratinization and shedding

Fine to stratified
- Erythema craquele (p. 60)
- Ichthyosis-dominant (quadrangular)
- Ichthyosis—sex-linked (quadrangular)
- Lupus erythematosus (carpet tack)
- Pityriasis rosea (collarette)
- Psoriasis (silvery)
- Scarlet fever (fine, on trunk)
- Seborrheic dermatitis
- Syphilis (secondary)
- Tinea (dermatophytes)
- Tinea versicolor (p. 451)
- Xerosis (dry skin) (p. 23)

Scaling in sheets (desquamation)
- Kawasaki syndrome
- Scarlet fever (hands and feet) (p. 466)
- Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome (p. 288)
- Toxic shock syndrome
Secondary Skin Lesions

Scales

Psoriasis (silvery)

Pityriasis rosea (collarette)

Scarlet fever (desquamation)
Secondary Skin Lesions

Crust, a collection of dried serum and cellular debris; a scab

Acute eczematous inflammation

Atopic (face) (p. 109)

Impetigo (honey colored)

Pemphigus foliaceus

Tinea capitis (p. 431)
Secondary Skin Lesions

Erosion, a focal loss of epidermis; erosions do not penetrate below the dermoepidermal junction and therefore heal without scarring

- Candidiasis (p. 445)
- Dermatophyte infection
- Eczematous diseases
- Herpes simplex (p. 381)
- Intertrigo (p. 447)
- Neurotic excoriations
- Perlèche (p. 450)
- Senile skin (p. 665)
- Tinea pedis (p. 413)
- Toxic epidermal necrolysis
- Vesiculobullous diseases
Secondary Skin Lesions - Erosions

Tinea Pedis

Candidiasis

Neurotic excoriations
Secondary Skin Lesions

Ulcer is a focal loss of epidermis and dermis; ulcers heal with scarring

- Aphthae
- Chancroid (p. 327)
- Decubitus
- Factitial (p. 69)
- Ischemic
- Necrobiosis lipoidica (p. 897)
- Neoplasms (p. 728)
- Pyoderma gangrenosum
- Radiodermatitis
- Syphilis (chancre)
- Stasis ulcers (p. 74)
Secondary Skin Lesions—Ulcers

Ulcer

Chancroid

Pyoderma gangrenosum
Secondary Skin Lesions

**Fissure** is a linear loss of epidermis and dermis with sharply defined, nearly vertical walls.

**Eczema**

**Intertrigo**

**Perlèche**
Secondary Skin Lesions

Atrophy, a depression in the skin resulting from thinning of the epidermis or dermis

Morphea (p. 621)
Aging (p. 665)
Dermatomyositis (p. 608)
Discoid lupus erythematosus (p. 97)
Necrobiosis lipoidica (p. 897)
Radiodermatitis
Striae (p. 37)
Topical and intralesional steroids (p. 35)

Lichen sclerosis et atrophicus (p. 257)
Secondary Skin Lesions

**Scars** are an abnormal formation of connective tissue implying dermal damage; after injury or surgery scars are initially thick and pink but with time become white and atrophic.

- Acne ([p. 174](#))
- Burns
- Herpes zoster ([p. 397](#))
- Hidradenitis suppurativa
- Keloid ([p. 709](#))
- Porphyria ([p. 678](#))
- Varicella ([p. 390](#))
**Special Skin Lesions**

**Excoriation**, an erosion caused by scratching; excoriations are often linear

**Comedone**, a plug of sebaceous and keratinous material lodged in the opening of a hair follicle; the follicular orifice may be dilated (blackhead) or narrowed (whitehead or closed comedone)

**Milia**, a small, superficial keratin cyst with no visible opening
More Special Skin Lesions

**Burrow**, a narrow, elevated, tortuous channel produced by a parasite

![Scabies burrow](image)

**Lichenification**, an area of thickened epidermis Induced by scratching; the skin lines are accentuated so that the surface looks like a washboard

![Lichenification](image)
More Special Skin Lesions

Cyst, a circumscribed lesion with a wall and a lumen; the lumen contains fluid or solid matter.
More Special Skin Lesions

**Telangiectasia** is a dilated superficial blood vessels.

**Petechia** is circumscribed deposit of blood less than 0.5 cm in diameter

**Purpura** is circumscribed deposit of blood greater than 0.5 cm in diameter
Primary Skin Lesions
- Macule     - Nodule and Tumor
- Papule     - Plaque     - Pustule
- Vesicle    - Bulla      - Wheal

Secondary Skin Lesions
- Scales     - Erosion    - Atrophy & Scar
- Ulcer      - Fissure    - Crust

Special Skin Lesions
- Excoriation - Milia     - Comedone
- Cyst       - Burrow     - Lichenification
- Telangiectasia - Petichia and Purpura