



The skin and systemic disease

Clues to possible systemic disease:

- ▶ Rash ass. with joint pain, fever, weight loss, weakness, SOB, altered bowel function
- ▶ Rash not responding to topical tx
- ▶ Erythema of the skin (inflammation around blood vessels)
- ▶ Non blanching palpable purplish fixed lesion , painful and blistering >> vasculitis
- ▶ Unusual changes in pigmentation or texture of the skin.
- ▶ Palpable dermal lesion 2ry to granuloma , mets , lymphoma and so on...

Characteristic rash that indicates underlying systemic disease :

- ▶ Erythema multiforme >> HSV, Hep B/C, mycoplasma pneumonia
- ▶ Pyoderma gangrosum >> IBD , RA , hematological malignancy
- ▶ Erythema nodosum >> IBD , streptococcal infxn , TB , sarcoidosis , behcet's
- ▶ Vasculitis >> Hep B /C , SLE , lymphoma , leukemia



Skin reactions associated with infections

1. Toxic erythema



Toxic Erythema

- ▶ Widespread symmetrical Maculopapular erythema (morbilliform)
- ▶ starts on the trunk then spreads to the limbs
- ▶ Usually asymptomatic (itchy)
- ▶ Blanching
- ▶ Triggered by viruses, bacteria, drugs
- ▶ Classic presentation??
- ▶ Tx: No need, can use;
 - ▶ emollient and topical steroid if symptomatic
 - ▶ treat the underlying disease



Gianotti-Crosti syndrome



2. EM

- ▶ Epidemiology
- ▶ Presentation : target lesions
- ▶ Pathophysiology: Type IV HSR
- ▶ Classification : EM Minor vs Major
- ▶ Causes: according to classification, most common cause: HSV
- ▶ Dx : Clinical
- ▶ TX
- ▶ Recurrence ?
- ▶ Coarse
- ▶ Rare associations

EM

- ▶ The most common infectious trigger HSV
- ▶ Systemic symptoms of the underlying infection usually precede the EM rash by 2–14 days.



EM



Erythema Nodosum

- ▶ Most common Panniculitis.
- ▶ Epidemiology: F >> M
- ▶ Presentation: acute, painful nodules (Shin), especially by palpation.
- ▶ Idiopathic (50%) vs Secondary
- ▶ Secondary causes: Multiple, shown in the table
- ▶ Most Common Sec : Strep
- ▶ Skin lesions: very tender nodules(3–20 cm), not sharply marginated
- ▶ Dx & management: Bacterial Culture, Imaging, Dermatopathology
- ▶ Course: Spontaneous resolution occurs in 6 weeks
- ▶ Tx: treat secondary; rest + NSAIDs (steroids ?)

3. Erythema nodosum



EN: Causes

TABLE 7-1 CAUSES OF ERYTHEMA NODOSUM^a

Infections

Bacterial

Streptococcal infections, tuberculosis, yersiniosis

Other: *Salmonella*, *Campylobacter*, *Shigella*,
brucellosis, psittacosis, *Mycoplasma*

Fungal

Coccidioidomycosis, blastomycosis, histoplasmosis,
sporotrichosis, dermatophytosis

Viral

Infectious mononucleosis, hepatitis B, orf, herpes
simplex

Other

Amebiasis, giardiasis, ascariasis

Other

Drugs

Sulfonamides; bromides and iodides

Oral contraceptives

Other: minocycline, gold salts, penicillin, salicylates

Malignancies

Hodgkin and non-Hodgkin lymphoma, leukemia,
renal cell carcinoma

Other

Sarcoidosis

Inflammatory bowel disease: ulcerative colitis, Crohn
disease

Behçet disease

4. Erythema annulare centrifugum



Vs Tinea Corporis

5. Erythema chronicum migrans

- ▶ Caused by *Borrelia burgdorferi* (lyme disease)
- ▶ Migrating erythema
- ▶ Cutaneous inflammatory response to *Borrelia*.





Sarcoidosis

Sarcoidosis

- ▶ Unknown etiology, atypical mycobacterium may be the trigger
- ▶ **Presentation:**
- ▶ May occur with or without cutaneous disease
- ▶ **Skin lesions** : Specific vs Non-specific
- ▶ Earliest: skin-colored papules, on the face, heal without scarring.
- ▶ Then: Plaques; annular, extremities and Buttocks, **SCARRING, Chronic disease**
- ▶ Lupus Pernio: violaceous plaques on the nose and cheeks
- ▶ EN: m/c NS skin lesion, early sarciod.
- ▶ Scarring sarcoidosis.

Sarcoidosis



Dusky infiltrated lesions: Lupus Pernio



Lupus pernio



Scarring sarcoid



Löfgren syndrome

- Erythema nodosum
- Fever
- Arthritis
- Hilar adenopathy

Löfgren Syndrome



Hilar lymphadenopathy



Acute polyarthritis
(usually ankles)



Erythema nodosum

Diagnosis and management

- ▶ Imaging
- ▶ Labs
- ▶ Lesional biopsy
- ▶ Tx:
- ▶ Systemic involvement: systemic steroids
- ▶ Limited cutaneous: topical steroids, if extensive: systemic steroids, mtx, hydroxychloroquine.



Skin changes ass with hormonal imbalance

Hyperpigmentation

- ▶ Increase in circulating hormones with melanocyte-stimulating activity
- ▶ Hyperthyroidism, acromegaly, **Addison's disease**
- ▶ Pregnancy, OCPs -> melasma/chloasma (localized on the forehead and cheeks)
- ▶ It may fade slowly if ultraviolet light is excluded from the affected skin using daily sun block.



Hypopigmentation

- ▶ Widespread partial loss of melanocyte function
- ▶ Hypopituitarism (absence of MSH)

Acanthosis nigricans



Necrobiosis lipoidica

- ▶ Associated with DM
- ▶ Not related to the severity of DM
- ▶ Course not affected by controlling blood sugar
- ▶ Tx: intralesional steroids, surgery.





Thyroid disease

Table 10.1 Clinical signs of thyroid disease.

Hypothyroidism

Dry skin

Oedema of eyelids and hands

Absence of sweating

Coarse, thin hair; loss of pubic,
axillary and eyebrow hair

Pale 'ivory' skin

Brittle poorly growing nails

Purpura, bruising and telangiectasia

Hyperthyroidism

Soft, thickened skin

Pretibial myxoedema

Increased sweating (palms and soles)

Thinning of scalp hair

Diffuse pigmentation

Rapidly growing nails

Palmar erythema

Facial flushing

Graves disease

- ▶ Hyperthyroidism with diffuse goiter, Ophthalmopathy and dermatopathy.
- ▶ Dermopathy: *pretibial myxedema*
- ▶ Tx: *steroids*





Skin changes with GI and liver diseases

Zinc deficiency

- ▶ Acrodermatitis enteropathica : genetic disorder of Zinc absorption (seen in neonates)
- ▶ Acquired zinc deficiency (AZD) occurs in older individuals due to dietary deficiency or failure of intestinal absorption of zinc (malabsorption, alcoholism, prolonged parenteral nutrition)
- ▶ Skin changes usually appear within weeks of birth with erythematous inflamed scaly skin around the mouth, anus and eyes



Zinc def

- ▶ If the condition is not recognised and treated promptly then the skin can become crusted, eroded and secondarily infected.(candida, S.aureus)
- ▶ Other findings:
- ▶ Zinc supplementation (1mg/kg/day), should be continued until zinc levels normalise (or lifelong in inherited forms).

Vitamin C deficiency

- ▶ occurs in those with malabsorption problems, those on a poor diet, the elderly and alcoholics
- ▶ Vascular fragility
- ▶ *Skin lesions*: Petechiae, follicular hyperkeratosis with perifollicular hemorrhage, especially on the lower legs
- ▶ Other findings:
- ▶ Labs: Normocytic, normochromic anemia, Serum ascorbic acid level zero. X-ray findings are diagnostic
- ▶ Tx: Ascorbic acid



3. Pyoderma gangrenosum

- ▶ Rapid and painful ulcerated necrotic skin areas with hypertrophic undermined purplish margins.
- ▶ Ass with UC, Crohn's, RA, leukemia, monoclonal gammopathy.



4. Dermatitis herpetiformis



5. Liver disease

Box 10.4 **Liver disease and the skin**

Obstructive

Jaundice

Pruritus.

Liver failure

Multiple spider naevi

Palmar erythema

White nails: hypoalbuminaemia

Porphyria cutanea tarda.

Cirrhosis

Xanthomas (primary biliary cirrhosis)

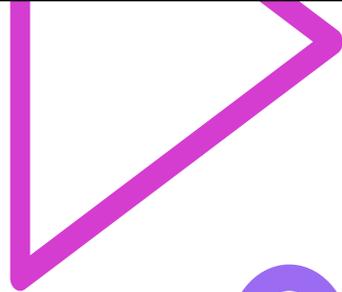
Asteatosis.

Porphyria cutanea tarda



Xanthomas



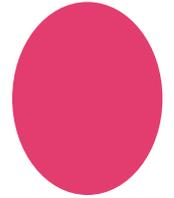


- ▶ **Albinism** , AR , loss of pigment of skin , eyes and hair , no pigment production
- ▶ **Piebaldism** , AD , triangular hypopigmented patches , disorder of melanocyte development
- ▶ **Vitiligo** localized depigmentation, sharply demarcated, symmetrical macular lesions, loss of melanocytes and melanin
- ▶ **Post- Inflammatory** such as psoriasis, eczema, lichen planus and lupus erythematosus; infections, chemicals, reactions to pigmented naevi, genetic diseases

There is wide variation in the pattern of normal pigmentation as a result of hereditary factors and exposure to the sun.

Darkening of the skin may be due:

- ▶ 1. An increase in the normal pigment melanin
- ▶ 2. Deposition of bile salts from liver disease
- ▶ 3. Iron salts (haemochromatosis)
- ▶ 4. Drugs or metallic salts from ingestion
- ▶ 5. AN is characterised by darkening and thickening of the skin of the axillae, neck, nipples and umbilicus
- ▶ 6. Post-inflammatory pigmentation is common, often after acute eczema, fixed drug eruptions and lichen planus.
- ▶ 7. In malabsorption syndromes such as pellagra and scurvy, there is commonly increased skin pigmentation.



Skin changes of underlying malignancy

Skin disorders associated with malignancy:

| Skin disorder | Associated malignancies |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Acanthosis nigricans | Gastric cancer |
| Acquired ichthyosis | Lymphoma |
| Erythroderma | Lymphoma |
| Acquired hypertrichosis lanuginosa | Gastrointestinal and lung cancer |
| Erythema gyratum repens | Lung cancer |
| Dermatomyositis | Bronchial and breast cancer |
| Migratory thrombophlebitis | Pancreatic cancer |
| Necrolytic migratory erythema | Glucagonoma |
| Pyoderma gangrenosum | Myeloproliferative disorders |
| Sweet's syndrome | Hematological Ca e.g. Myelodysplasia - tender, purple plaques |
| Tylosis | Oesophageal cancer |

Mycosis fungoides



Poikiloderma (telangiectasia ,
reticulate pigmentation)



Skin and Pregnancy

- ▶ **Prurigo gestationis**- is a benign non-specific pruritic (itchy) papular rash that arises during pregnancy and is generally more severe in the first trimester.
- ▶ **Polymorphous eruption of pregnancy (PEP)** is a pruritic erythematous rash that usually starts in the striae of the abdomen during the third trimester and can become widespread. No effect on baby
- ▶ **Pemphigoid gestationis (PG)** is a rare disorder that may initially resemble PEP but develops pemphigoid-like vesicles, spreading over the abdomen and thighs (Figure 10.23). PG is an autoimmune disorder, (Small baby and higher mortality).





PEP

Pemphigoid gestations





GOOD LUCK