

INTRODUCTION TO DERMATOLOGY

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Function of the skin

- Protects body from external injury and pathogens.
- Temperature control.
- Synthesize vit.D.
- Cosmetic function.
- Sensory organ.
- Part of the immune system.

Structure of the skin

- The skin consists of several layers:
- The epidermis.
- The basement membrane.
- The dermis.
- The subcutaneous tissue.
- The skin appendages.

The basement membrane:

- Pink homogenous area between epidermis & dermis.
- Consist of number of proteins.
- Site of injury in blistering diseases.

The Dermis :consists of

- Collagen fibers.
- Elastic fibers.
- Ground substance.
- Fibroblast.
- Blood vessels.

Skin appendages:

- Sebaceous glands.
- Eccrine and apocrine glands.
- Hair follicles.
- Nails.

Configuration:

- Means the relation of lesions to each other.
- Linear: lesions arranged in lines.
- Grouped.
- Dermatomal.
- Annular: ring shaped.
- Reticulate: net –like.

Morphology:

- It is the type ,shape, margination of the lesion.
- Skin lesions are divided into primary&secondary.
- Primary lesion is the basic lesion.
- Secondary lesion develops during evolution of the disease created by scratching or infection.

Primary lesion includes:

- Macule: flat ,circumscribed skin discoloration that lacks surface elevation or depression.
- Patch: A very large macule.
- Papule: Elevated lesion <0.5 cm.
- Plaque: Elevated lesion >0.5 cm.
- Nodule: Elevated lesion >0.5 cm, but deeper extension.

Primary lesion:

- Wheal: firm, edematous plaque that is evanescent and pruritic.
- Vesicle: Elevation that contains clear fluid.
- Bulla: Elevation that contains fluid >0.5 cm. in diameter.
- Pustule: Elevation that contains pus.
- Cyst : Nodule that contains fluid or semisolid material.
- Burrow: linear curvature into skin resulting from scabies.

The epidermis:

- The outer most layer, and is composed of keratinocytes, or epidermal cells. consisting of:
- The basal layer. (stratum basale)
- The spinous layer. (stratum spinosum)
- The granular layer. (stratum granulosum)
- The corneum. (stratum corneum)_

Diagnosis of skin diseases:

1. Present complaint.
2. Onset of skin lesion.
3. Site of onset.
4. Character of lesion.
5. Extension.
6. Provoking factor

Diagnosis of skin diseases:

7. Symptoms.

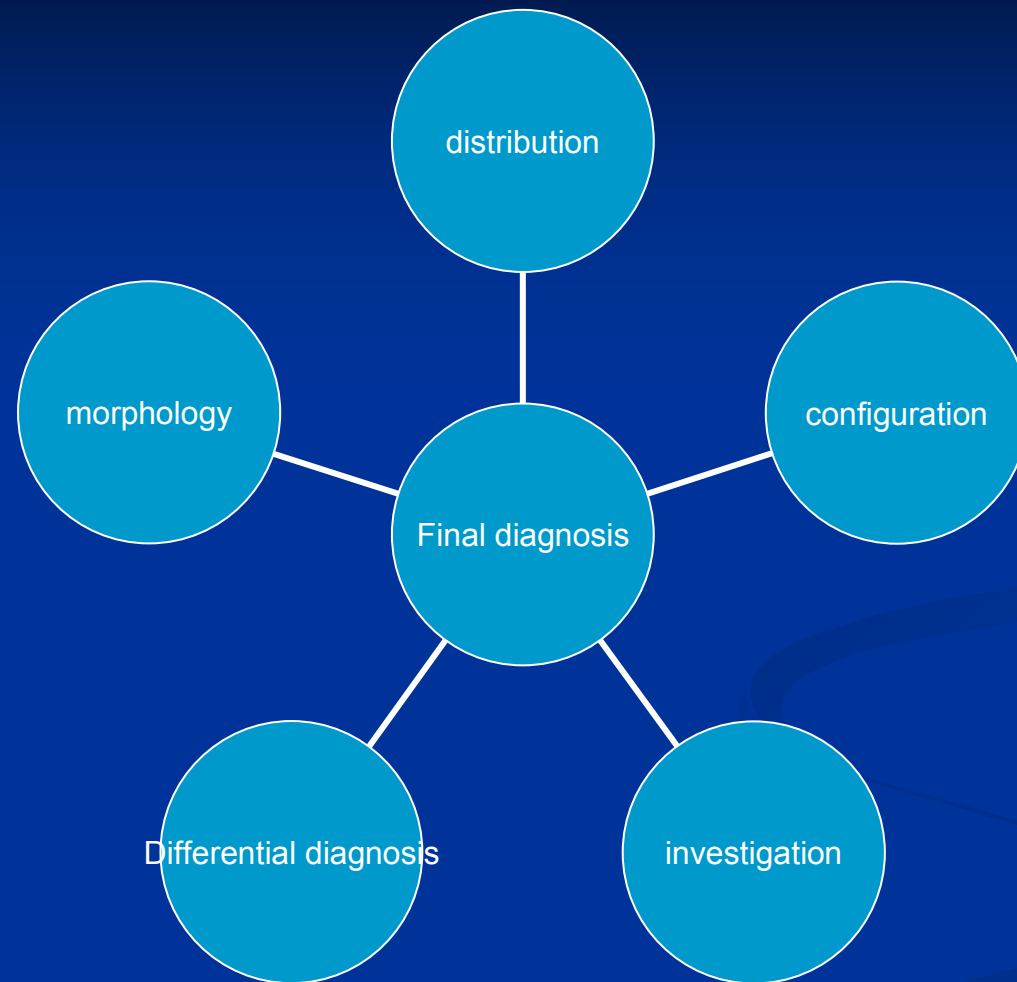
8. Topical therapy.

9. Allergies

10. Family history.

11. Occupation.

12. Leisure activity.



Distribution:

- Generalised is either:
 - Symmetrical(bilateral)
 - Asymmetrical(unilateral)
- Localized to
 - Sun-exposed areas.
 - Acral skin

Secondary lesions :

- Scale: thick s.corneum that result from hyperproliferation ,or increased cohesion of keratinocytes.
- Crust :A collection of cellular debris, dried serum , and blood. Antecedent lesion is usually a vesicle ,bulla, or pustule.
- Erosion:A partial loss of epidermis; heals without scarring.

Secondary lesions:

- Ulcer: A full thickness loss of epidermis and dermis; heals with scarring.
- Fissure: Vertical loss of epidermis and dermis with sharply defined walls .
- Excoriation: Linear erosion induced by scratching.
- Scar: A collection of new connective tissue; may be hypertrophic or atrophic. It result from dermo-epidermal damage.

Secondary lesions:

- Lichenification: Thickened epidermis with accentuated skin markings.
- Sclerosis: Special descriptive term i.e induration of subcutaneous tissue.

