

Top Dermatologic Issues in Primary Care

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Disclosure

- I have served as a consultant for Castle Biosciences
- I have served as a consultant for Aegle Therapeutics



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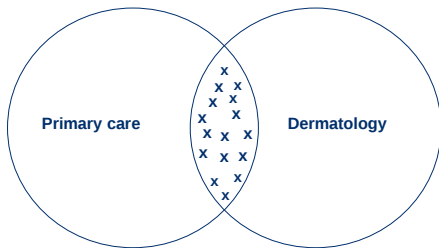
Goals of today's talk

- Review the morphologic range of dermatologic disease
- Emphasize dermatologic diagnoses in primary care setting
- NOT to review the entirety of relevant dermatology
- Emphasize the essential role of a biopsy in making a diagnosis



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Scope of this talk



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Our why:

- “Skin conditions are the most common reason for a new presentation to a primary care physician”*



* Roux E Le, Edwards PJ, Sanderson E, Barnes RK, Ridd MJ. The content and conduct of GP consultations for dermatology problems: A cross-sectional study. *Br J Gen Pract.* 2020;70(699):e723–30.



Grada et al. *J Clin Aesthet Dermatol.* 2022 May; 15(5): E82–E86.

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A quick tour through the world of dermatologic morphology



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Describing Lesions

- Size
- Color
- Primary Lesion Type
- Secondary Lesion Type (if present)
- Configuration
- Location



Lesion Types

Primary

Changes in the skin directly caused by the disease process.

Secondary

Changes in the skin caused by external forces (scratching, trauma, infection, or the healing process).



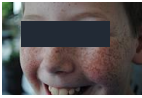
Primary Lesions

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------|
| Macule | Bulla |
| Patch | Pustule |
| Papule | Wheal |
| Plaque | Telangiectasia |
| Nodule | Cyst |
| Tumor | Comedones (open & closed) |
| Vesicle | |



Macule < 1cm flat, non-palpable, change of skin color.

Examples



Freckles
(Ephelides)



Solar
Lentigines



Junctional
Nevus



Patch > 1cm flat, non-palpable, change of skin color.



Vitiligo



Port Wine
Stain



Papule < 1cm superficial, raised, palpable lesion
with distinct borders



Skin Tags
(Acrochordons)



Molluscum
Contagiosum



Seborrheic
keratoses



Lichen
Planus



Intradermal nevus



Plaque >1 cm raised, flat-topped, palpable lesion greater than 1 cm in diameter.



Psoriasis



Atopic Dermatitis



Nodule – Firm lesion less than 1 cm in diameter. It can be located in epidermis, dermis, or subcutaneous tissue. Increased depth differentiates nodules from papules.



Rheumatoid Nodules



Nodular Acne



Lipoma



Tumor – Solid mass in skin or subcutaneous tissue > 2 cm.



Fluid filled sacs:

< 1 cm → Vesicle
> 1 cm → Bulla



Herpes Simplex (vesicle)



Bullous Pemphigoid (Bulla)



Contact Dermatitis



Pustule – vesicle containing “puss” which is neutrophil-rich.
Can be sterile or infectious.



Folliculitis



Acne



Pustular psoriasis



Wheal – Edema in upper dermis.



Urticaria

Telangiectasia – Dilated superficial blood vessel.



Cyst – Cavity containing fluid, solid or semi-solid material



Epidermal Inclusion Cyst

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Comedones – A plug of keratin or sebum within the dilated orifice of a hair follicle (non-inflammatory)



Closed "whitehead" Open "blackhead"

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Secondary Lesions

Scale	Crust
Excoriation	Atrophy
Lichenification	Purpura
Fissure	Hyper/Hypo-pigmentation
Erosion	
Ulcer	

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Scale – Flakes or plates of desquamated stratum corneum

Seborrheic Dermatitis



Xerosis



Crust Dried plasma or exudates.



Impetigo



Atrophy – Thinning or absence of epidermis, dermis, or subcutaneous fat.



Lichenification – Thickening of epidermis with exaggerated skin lines. Usually from chronic scratching/rubbing.



Erosion – Loss of part or all of the epidermis.



(Pemphigus Vulgaris)

Ulcer – Loss of epidermis and dermis due to necrosis.



Excoriation – Loss of superficial epidermis due to trauma.
(ie: scratching, picking)



Fissure – Crack in skin due to dryness.



Petechiae, Purpura, & Ecchymosis –
Non-blanchable bleeding in skin.

Size: petechiae < 3 mm
purpura 3 mm – 1 cm
ecchymosis > 1 cm



Petechiae



Palpable Purpura



Ecchymosis



Hypo/ Hyper-pigmentation

Secondary lightening or darkening of the skin.



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Skin Configurations

Annular	Disseminated/Generalized
Linear	Confluent
Grouped	Reticulated
Serpiginous	
Arcuate	

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Annular: Ring shaped



Tinea
Corporis

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Linear: In a line.



Koebner's Phenomenon



Grouped: Lesions that are clustered together.



Serpiginous: wavy or “snake-like” in appearance.



Arcuate: crescent or “half-moon” shaped



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Reticular: lesions with a “net-like” arrangement.



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Disseminated/Generalized: Describes a lesion that is usually localized that has spread



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Confluent: running together



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Location

Intertriginous
Photodistributed
Palmar/Plantar
Dermatomal
Symmetrical
Blaschko's Lines

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Intertriginous: Area where two skin surfaces touch or rub together.



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Photodistributed: in areas exposed to sunlight.



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Palmar/Plantar: relating to the palm of the hand or sole of the foot.



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Dermatomal: corresponding to a dermatome of the body.



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Symmetrical: Made up of exactly similar parts facing each other or around an axis



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Blaschko's Lines: skin lines that trace the migration of embryonic cells.



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What are the most common derm diagnoses in primary care?

Study in 2022: on the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey (NAMCS) between 2007 and 2016, the most recent years available:

- The NAMCS is an ongoing survey which provides objective information about the use of ambulatory medical services in the United States.
- The survey is conducted annually by the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).
- The NAMCS surveys a large, generalizable sample of physicians and non-physician providers and has achieved high response rates of up to 77%.

Ahn CS, Allen MM, Davis SA, Huang KE, Fleischer AB, Feldman SR. The National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey: A resource for understanding the outpatient dermatology treatment. *J Dermatolog Treat.* 2014;25(6):453-458.

Arafa AE, Anzengruber F, Mostafa AM, Navarini AA. Perspectives of online surveys in dermatology. *J Eur Acad Dermatol Venerol.* 2019;33:511-520.

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Grada et al., *J Clin Aesthet Dermatol*, 2022 May; 15(5): E82-E86.

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The most common skin diagnoses in primary care

- In the population-based, cross-sectional analysis using the National Ambulatory Medical Care Survey between 2007 and 2016:
- The five most common skin diagnoses among all medical specialties were
 - contact dermatitis
 - acne vulgaris
 - actinic keratosis
 - "benign neoplasm" of the skin
 - epidermoid cyst



Grada et al. J Clin Aesthet Dermatol. 2022 May; 15(5): E82–E86.

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Other "Top" Dermatologic Issues for Primary Care

- Identify a skin malignancy
- Identify eczematous, psoriasiform, lichenoid, and drug-induced conditions
- Identify potential autoimmune connective tissue diseases
- Identify autoimmune bullous dermatoses
- Barriers to sampling the skin in primary care
 - Requires proper set up, equipment for procedures, photography/triangulation of lesions, proper sample containers (ex. Michels media for direct immunofluorescence).
- Delay in referral / wait times for patients to be seen by dermatology
- Delay in diagnosis and treatment

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A bit of a deeper dive into

The most common issues

- Acne vulgaris
- Epidermoid cyst
- "Benign" neoplasms of the skin
- Actinic keratosis
- Contact dermatitis

Other top issues

- Cutaneous malignancy
 - Basal cell carcinoma
 - Squamous cell carcinoma
 - Melanoma
- Refractory inflammatory dermatoses
 - Eczematous
 - Psoriasiform
 - Lichenoid
- Autoimmune connective tissue diseases
 - Ex. cutaneous lupus
- Autoimmune bullous diseases
 - Ex. bullous pemphigoid



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The top most common

Acne vulgaris
vs rosacea – diagnosis



Acne
vs
Rosacea

OTHER FEATURES: Acne Vulgaris	OTHER FEATURES: Rosacea
• Most prevalent in adolescents and young adults • Variable distribution on face • Frequent shoulder, chest, and/or back involvement • Sequelae of postinflammatory hyperpigmentation, postinflammatory erythema, and scarring • Association with hyperandrogenic disorders (eg, polycystic ovarian syndrome)	• Most prevalent in adults >30 years old • Centrifugal distribution (cheeks, nose, chin) • Ocular involvement (eg, symptoms of eye irritation, eyelid erythema, conjunctival injection, crusting, recurrent blepharitis or chalazions) • Sensitive skin • Flushing
KEY CONCEPTS	
Acne vulgaris and rosacea are common causes of inflamed papules or pustules on the face. Recognition of other characteristic features is helpful for distinguishing these conditions. Patients may exhibit some or all of the displayed features. Distinguishing between acne vulgaris and rosacea is important because of differences in the approach to patient evaluation and treatment. For example, an assessment for signs of associated hyperandrogenism (eg, menstrual irregularity, hirsutism, virilization) is an important component of the initial evaluation of female patients with acne vulgaris, particularly in the presence of severe, sudden-onset, or recalcitrant acne. In patients with rosacea, an assessment for signs or symptoms of ocular involvement is important for identifying patients who may benefit from ophthalmologic examination.	

Acne vulgaris vs rosacea – treatment

Acne



- Daily wash with benzoyl peroxide-containing wash (Ex. CeraVe with benzoyl peroxide) or salicylic acid wash
- Topical clindamycin solution, gel, or lotion
- Daily retinoid (ex. OTC adapalene gel, or tretinoin creams) – a pea-sized amount only across entire face at night
- Oral medications: doxycycline 100 mg BID (or minocycline) for up to 1 month, can consider refills for flares
- Hormonal driven: start with spironolactone 50 mg daily, increase to 100 mg daily as tolerated (consider checking potassium; warn of side effects; not for use in woman trying to get pregnant)
- Also consider topical Winlevi (clascoterone) – androgen receptor inhibitor

Rosacea



- Start topical metronidazole gel
 - If fails, consider topical ivermectin (Soolantra)
- Dermatologist: can perform lasers (example PDL to target hemoglobin in telangiectasias)
- Wash with sensitive skin cleaners (Cetaphil, CeraVe, Vanicream, etc).
- Can consider long-term, low dose doxycycline 50 mg daily, or 40 mg Oracea (slow-release)
- Can consider vasoconstrictors (topical brimonidine – α_2 adrenergic receptor agonist)
- Identify and reduce triggers as much as possible (alcohol, spicy foods, heat, stress, etc)
- Refer to ophthalmology if ocular involvement

✕ Isotretinoin for severe cases

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Epidermoid inclusion cysts - diagnosis



Beware of the "cyst" – if deeper with no punctum, it may not be a "cyst"

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Epidermoid inclusion cysts - differential

Pilar cyst



Pilomatricoma



Lipoma



Ganglion cyst



Dermoid cyst



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Cysts? Unfortunately not.



✕ Pajaziti, L., Hapçiu, S.R., Dobruna, S. et al. Skin metastases from lung cancer: a case report. BMC Res Notes 8, 139 (2015). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13104-015-1105-0> 55

Benign neoplasms of the skin (examples)



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"Pyogenic granuloma" (lobular capillary hemangioma) vs other?



Lobular capillary hemangioma

Spitzoid melanoma

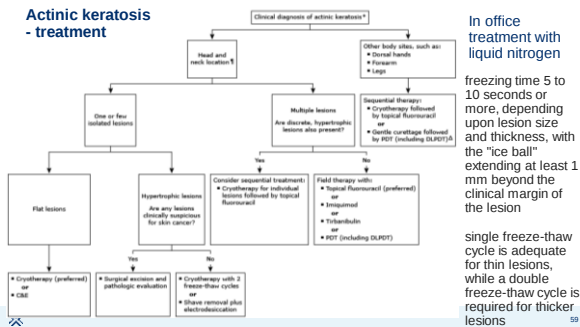
✕ 57

Actinic keratoses



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Actinic keratosis - treatment



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Contact dermatitis - diagnosis



- Common contact allergens include plant allergens, metals, fragrances, acrylates, medicaments, and preservatives.

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History and geometric distribution are important

Useful resource: Contact Dermatitis Institute (www.contactdermatitisinstitute.com)



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Contact dermatitis – treatment/ avoidance



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The other “Top” issues



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Skin cancer – The “big 3” – diagnosis - clinical

Basal cell carcinoma



Squamous cell carcinoma

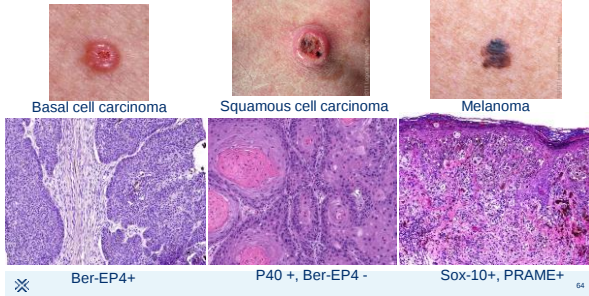


Melanoma

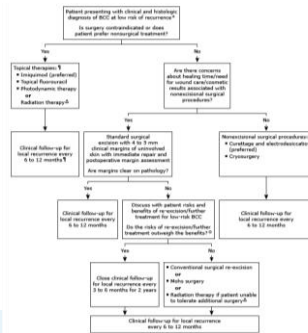


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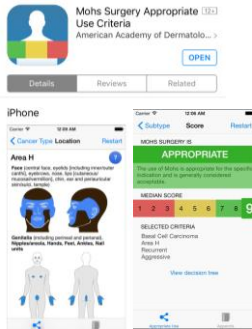
Skin cancer – The “big 3” – diagnosis - dermatopathology



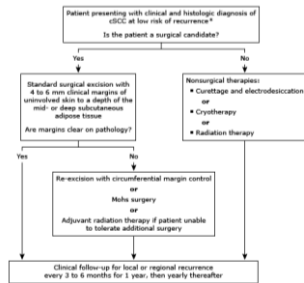
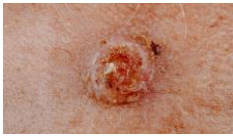
Skin cancer/BCC - treatment



Appropriate Use Criteria for Mohs

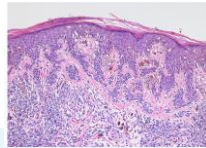
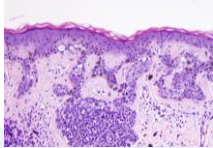
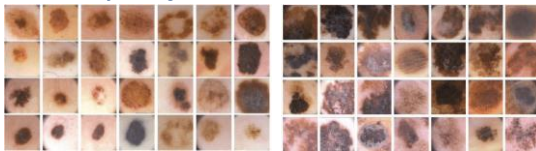


Skin cancer/SCC - treatment



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The melanocytic diagnostic dilemma



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Melanoma- staging

Definition of Primary Tumor (T) - AJCC 8th Edition

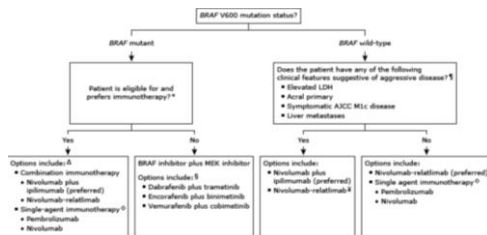


T Category	Thickness	Ulceration status
Tis (melanoma <i>in situ</i>)	Not applicable	Not applicable
T1	≤1.0 mm	Unknown or unspecified
T1a	<0.8 mm	Without ulceration
T1b	<0.8 mm	With ulceration
	0.8–1.0 mm	With or without ulceration
T2	>1.0–2.0 mm	Unknown or unspecified
T2a	>1.0–2.0 mm	Without ulceration
T2b	>1.0–2.0 mm	With ulceration
T3	>2.0–4.0 mm	Unknown or unspecified
T3a	>2.0–4.0 mm	Without ulceration
T3b	>2.0–4.0 mm	With ulceration
T4	>4.0 mm	Unknown or unspecified
T4a	>4.0 mm	Without ulceration
T4b	>4.0 mm	With ulceration

Gershenwald, Scolyer, et al. Melanoma. In Amin, M.B., Edge, S.B., Greene, F.L., et al. (Eds.) AJCC Cancer Staging Manual, 8th Ed. New York: Springer; 2017

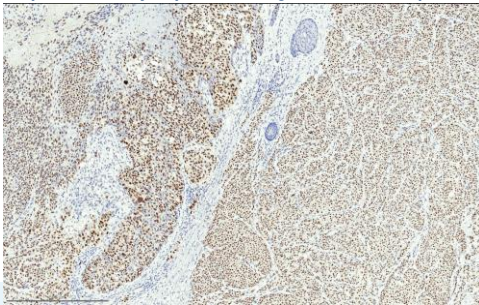
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Melanoma- treatment



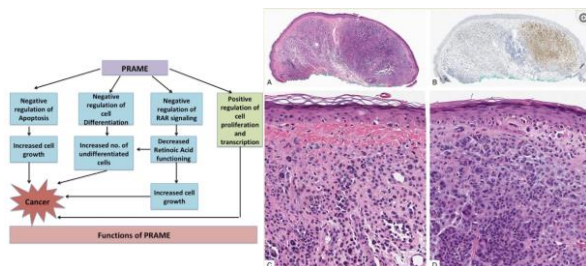
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PRAME (Preferentially-expressed Antigen in Melanoma)



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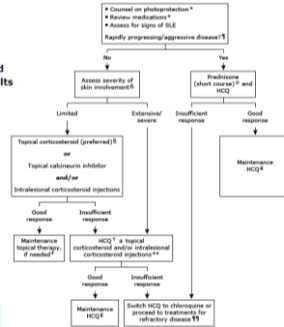
PRAME in melanoma



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Autoimmune connective tissue disease - treatment

Management of discoid lupus erythematosus and subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus in adults



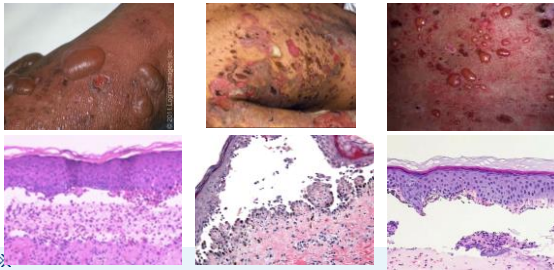
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Autoimmune bullous dermatoses, examples - diagnosis

Bullous pemphigoid

Pemphigus vulgaris

Bullous lupus



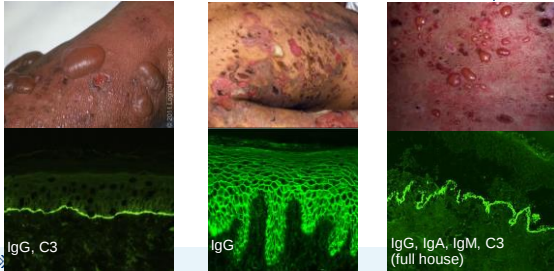
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Autoimmune bullous dermatoses, examples - diagnosis

Bullous pemphigoid

Pemphigus vulgaris

Bullous lupus



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Types of Biopsies and Indications



- Protruded lesions (skin tags)
- Dome-shaped nevi
- NMSC (BCC/SCC)
- Pigmented lesions (ruling out melanoma)



- Connective tissue diseases (Lupus/ Dermatomyositis)
- Papulosquamous disorders (psoriasis)
- Blistering disorders (pemphigus)
- Granulomatous diseases (sarcoid)
- Vasculitis (HSP)
- NMSC (infiltrating tumors)



- Subcutaneous or deep dermal tumors (can do a "punch-within-a-punch")
- Panniculitis (also "punch-within-a-punch")
- Melanoma
- Atypical pigmented lesions



Biopsy Site Selection

BIOPSY SITE SELECTION	
Lesion/disorder	Appropriate site
Tumor	Thickest portion; avoid necrotic tissue
Blister	Edge of lesion, including perilesional skin (see Fig. 0.11)
Ulcerated/necrotic lesion	Edge of ulcer or necrosis plus adjacent skin
Generalized polymorphous eruption	Characteristic lesion of recent onset (± more developed lesion)
Small vessel vasculitis	Characteristic lesion of recent onset

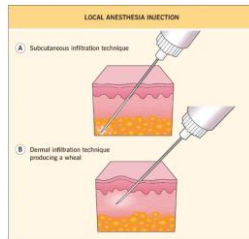
Patient Preparation

- Determine the type of biopsy
- Informed consent: bleeding, discomfort, infection, and scarring
- Site preparation:
 - Identification and marking
 - Time Out
 - Photograph
 - Close up for lesional details
 - Distant for identification of landmarks



Anesthesia Techniques

- Lidocaine 1% with or without epinephrine
- Small lesions: direct infiltration of anesthetic into lesion
- Larger lesions: a field block by placing a ring of anesthesia around surgical site
- Bevel up
- Use small gauge needle (30), insert quickly at a 45° angle
- Slow injection to create an intradermal wheal, then may proceed to subcutaneous injection depending on shave vs. punch
- Additional sticks should be done through areas that are already numb
- Use smaller syringes – require lower pressure for injection
- Warm anesthetic to body temperature
- Slow injection
- Verbal and tactile distraction



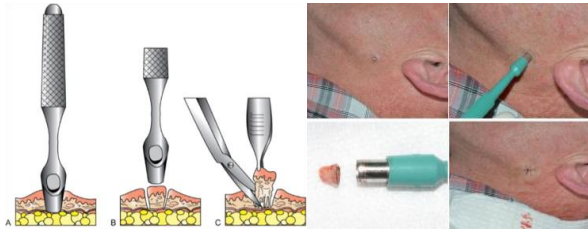
Bolognia et al. Dermatology

Patient Preparation Continued

- Prep
 - ETOH swab
 - Iodine
 - Chlorhexidine
- Anesthesia
- Plane of injection
- Procedure
 - Hemostasis: Aluminum chloride, hemostatic sponge, compression, cautery, suture, ferric subsulfate
 - Label specimen bottle with formalin

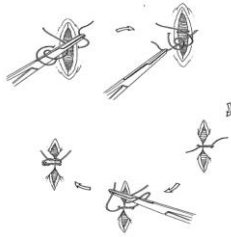


Punch Biopsy



Instrument tie

- Needle holder is held parallel to the wound incision
- Needle end of suture is looped twice around the holder before grasping the free end of suture
- The free and needle end of the suture exchange sides across the wound
- Additional throws are done in a similar manner, except with one loop

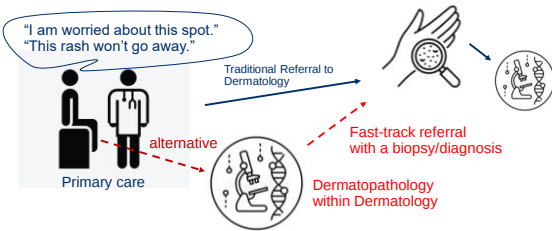


Biopsy for direct immunofluoresence



Dermatology in the Primary Care Setting

Primary care providers are in a **prime position** to take care of dermatologic issues.



Jeffrey D. McBride, OU Dermatology, OU Dermatopathology

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Thank you for your attention.

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