The increasing concern of the general population following educational programs and annual campaigns against solar skin exposures, about the risks of skin cancer and ageing related to sunlight abuse deserves the attention of the physicians. Directly motivated or as a side question, more patients ask their general practitioner, or dermatologist, for protection against acute and long-term unwanted consequences of solar exposures. Sunscreens are, today, the easiest way to provide this protection.

The book is a comprehensive collection of contributions from renowned specialists and provides a wonderful tool for the physician. It represents a well-documented updated set of data of what should be known not only of sunscreens but also why and how they should be used.

The first chapters are covering the needs for photoprotection providing basic and practical notions of photobiology, photomedicine and natural photoprotection. Specific points as tanning accelerators, psoralen-containing sunscreens or sensitization by sunscreen agents are of direct interest for the physician. However, the personality of some authors and their connection with commercial hobbies are weakening their arguments. A third part of the book is directly related to the state of the art in ‘everyday’ questions on e.g. intrinsic and extrinsic photoprotection against UVB and UVA, claims for sun protection factors or substantivity.

Some chapters and many of the authors have contributed to a more scientific, chemically oriented book entitled Sunscreens – Development, Evaluation, and Regulatory Aspects (eds. N.J. Lowe and N.A. Shaath, New York, Dekker, 1990, in Cosmetic Sciences and Technology series, vol. 10). The mixture of authors from commercial companies and university investigators helps to keep the general style very close to the capacity of the readers to enter a complex and difficult field.

However, the non-American readers will feel, somehow, frustrated since brand names and most of the regulations are from the US and follow the FDA recommendations. Fortunately, the editor of the book is more updated than the FDA position (1978). The most modern and advanced results of the cosmetic sciences are well covered, and the essentials of a modern approach to photoprotection are provided by several authors.

The recommendations apply to extreme conditions (30° L, moderate altitude) when compared to mild sun exposure (Mediterranean sea, European countries).

The book, definitively, assembles the essentials of the knowledge, usually dispersed in specific papers published in professional specialized journals. We strongly recommend this book as the basis of a better understanding of solar aggressions and their prevention.

J.P. Cesarini, Paris
D. Van Neste
Evaluation de l’état fonctionnel de la peau par des méthodes non invasives
New developments in skin bioengineering presently offer many tools to the dermatologist and the skin researcher who investigate, objectively and noninvasively, the various aspects of skin functions in vivo.

As emphasized by the author, the originality of this work is based on the combination of several noninvasive techniques in order to assess the dynamics of several inflammatory processes. By this biophysical approach to skin functions, the author shows a good level of scientific reasoning and argumentation in the interpretation of his results. The performed statistics are adequate, the quality of the illustrations is good and the style is concise and clear. The study design used in the experimental model of rough dermatitis and in the assessment of antihistaminic activity (anti-H1) could be used as a standard protocol in clinical dermatology.

The plan of this thesis and its contents make it publishable as a book. This kind of work should be addressed to a large range of specialists, including dermatologists, skin pharmacologists, skin bioengineers, cosmetic scientists and even marketing people.

J. Czernielewski, Valbonne
R. Baran, R.P.R. Dawber, G.M. Levene

A Colour Atlas of the Hair, Scalp and Nails
Wolfe, London 1991
192 pp.; 442 col. plates; E 40.00

After introducing the topic and summarizing the comparative anatomy of the nail and hair, according to the well-appreciated concept by G. Achten, the editors consider separately hair and nail pathology.

Structural and functional abnormalities have been reviewed in androgenetic alopecia, also called physiologic alopecia, hirsutism, diffuse alopecia in females; that is the female equivalent of male-pattern baldness. The mechanisms of traumatic alopecia, alopecia areata, cicatricial alopecias, changes of hair colour, infections and infestations are briefly commented on and well illustrated. A very important chapter in general medicine is that of hair and scalp involvement during systemic diseases, but several dermatological diseases involving this area are also discussed.

In the second part of the book, nail problems such as disorders of the nail surface, in the nail plate, its consistence and colour, are reviewed. Following this are the chapters considering abnormalities more specific for infancy or aging, mycotic and other infections of the nail, the nail in dermatological diseases such as psoriasis or eczema, nail involvement in systemic diseases, drug eruptions, changes associated with working conditions or cosmetic treatments and tumours of the nail.

In this broad review of major problems affecting the scalp hair and nail one should not expect to find much consideration about the physiopathology of diseases. The authors clearly choose a visual approach in order to point to diagnostic hallmarks. Most of the illustrations are of exceptional quality.

The table of contents allows rapid access to the relevant information. This book may serve as a reference for clinicians (a starter for those training in dermatology or a reminder for established dermatologists) and technicians involved with hair and nails. More specifically interested in such a topic are podologists, trichologists or cosmeticians involved in the continuous exchange of
information with their clients about their hair/nail condition. After seeing this book, they should not hesitate to ask for further advice and treatment when they recognize their client as a potential patient.

D. Van Neste, Tournai

Anthony du Vivier

Atlas of Infections of the Skin


Infections of the skin are often misdiagnosed because dermatological disorders are difficult to visualize mentally from simple text descriptions. Even impetigo is sometimes difficult to recognize and eventually mistreated with topical steroids. Illustrations of infectious skin diseases are rarely gathered in the same book. The Atlas of Infections of the Skin by Anthony du Vivier contains more than 200 photographs of outstanding quality with characteristic pictures of elementary lesions of each infection. The text which accompanies the illustrations is clear, concise, up to date and pleasant to read. Regrettfully, the first chapter, which illustrates common bacterial infections of the skin and syphilis, does not include less frequent infectious cutaneous disorders as necrotizing subcutaneous infections, periorbital cellulitis or cutaneous localization of staphylococcal or Pseudomonas septicemia. The skin lesions associated with these infections should be well known because they are life-threatening. The chapters about fungal or viral manifestations and infestations are particularly well documented and illustrated. The last chapter about dermatological disorders from tropical countries should have been longer. Only five different diseases are presented with illustrations. Finally, the Atlas of Infections of the Skin by Anthony du Vivier contains excellent color photography, although it is not complete in its coverage.

This book will surely prove useful to dermatologists and general practitioners as well as to medical students. The wealth of illustrations of this book will without doubt aid the diagnosis of infections of the skin.

P. El Baze, Nice

Mark R. Wick, Paul E. Swanson

Cutaneous Adnexal Tumors


The chapter ‘Cutaneous Adnexal Tumors’ is a complex one because of the great number of entities that have been described even during recent years. The description of many of them can be based only on their histological structure. The classification of such tumors is not always easy since the date of occurrence is not a reliable criterion and also because their nature, eccrine or apocrine, may remain controversial, as, for example, for the cylindroma which the authors include in the eccrine tumors.

However, what is important to the dermatologists and dermatopa-thologists is to find a good description, both clinical and histological with clearly demonstrative figures. From this point of view this book will be a very useful guide to pathologic diagnosis: the 578 color plates are of excellent quality.

Three chapters, all of them ending with special diagnostic techniques, are devoted to successively, sweat gland neoplasms, sebaceous tumors and hair follicle tumors, including the benign and malignant proliferations. The authors explain the purpose of including the Merkel cell carcinomas in a book on adnexal tumors. The last chapter concerns the differential diagnosis
of cutaneous adnexal carcinomas. An extensive list of references is given after each chapter, and a very useful index ends the book. Such a guide to the pathologic diagnosis of cutaneous adnexal tumors is to be highly recommended for its undoubtful usefulness.

Jean Civatte, Paris

A. Bernard Ackerman, Mark Jacobson, Patricia Ann Vitale

Clues to Diagnosis in Dermatopathology

This problem-oriented diagnostic book is very original. Each case illustrates a histological sign leading the histologist towards a diagnostic. One hundred histological lesions are hereby described together with superb histological and occasionally clinical pictures. As the authors said, the clues presented in the book are meant to serve as guides to specific diagnoses and not as infallible signs of them. Each chapter is completed with a differential diagnosis and references. Numerous skin affections are thus reported with some being cited more than once, when several histological signs may lead the pathologist towards the same diagnosis. A glossary ends this work that will be of interest to the dermatologist as well as the pathologist attracted by histopathology of the skin.

S. Belaich, Paris

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Book Reviews

Anthony du Vivier

Atlas of Skin Cancer

Atlas of Skin Cancer is a strange title for a book in which 151 pages are devoted to benign tumors and only 80 to skin cancers and their precursors. The best feature of this book is the quality of both clinical and histological photography. It is thus a very good atlas for young dermatologists who want to get acquainted with different aspects of benign and malignant skin tumors. Conversely, one will not find any new data. Particularly some pictures of histochemical aspects of skin cancer could have been included. Regretfully the author does not insist on aspects of very early melanomas but presents late aspects of this tumor which are more photogenic but far less interesting for the training of young students.

It is also unfortunate that, in an atlas of skin cancer, histological features of malignant melanoma (particularly superficial spreading melanoma) are so scarce. Also, I would have expected that, in an atlas of skin cancer, malignant adnexal tumors, Kaposi sarcoma, trabecular carcinoma and skin lymphoma had been included.

Finally one can regret that this very nice atlas did not take the advances in dermatology of the last 10 years into account.

/. Grob, Marseille

chapter 2, the profusion of English-spelled abbreviations has the same disturbing effect. All cellular permanent of transient inhabitants of the skin are remarkably illustrated, excepted Merkel cells and dendro-cytes whose related tumours are also omitted in chapter 8. Collagen VII is only mentioned in brackets on p. 108 in the paragraph dealing with epidermolysis bullosa
acquisita. In chapter 8 focused on diagnosis, I liked the paragraph on Behçet’s disease where immunohistochemical investigations are not usually performed: the increase in natural killer cells and the presence of streptococcal antigens in diseased skin may be valuable criteria of diagnosis. I liked also the lot of information given on vasculitides (urticarial vasculitis, Schölein-Henoch purpura, necrotizing vasculitis, erythema elevatum diutinum, hepatitis-B-associated vasculitis, livedo vasculitis, Wegener’s granulo-matosis). This chapter discloses some unexpected mixtures of experimental data unrelated to practice, for instance in paragraph 4.8 presenting the distribution of antigens in experimental contact dermatitis. Concerning the tumours only 8 pages are dedicated to lymphomas, but the German editors fortunately emphasize the difficulty of having an accurate diagnosis of malignancy in these conditions by the mean of immunohistochemistry. No paragraph is dedicated to cutaneous soft-tissue tumours or to the immunohistochemical scrutiny of metastatic tumours. Because of lacking information, I found the chapter on skin tumours partially deficient.

Even for no-German-reading practitioners, this atlas provides a relevant survey of the contribution of modern immunohistochemistry to the diagnosis and better understanding of the pathophysiology of skin diseases.

E. Grosshans, Strasbourg

Helmut Laaff, Susanne Wiemers
Dermato-Immunhistochemie

One may guess why this book written by 92 authors and edited in Japan by Hiroaki Ueki and Hideo Yaoita in 1989 does not keep these names after its translation into German by Helmut Laaff and Susanne Wiemers in 1991. This belongs to the mystery of edition and copyright. This book is presented as a colour atlas and deals in 8 chapters with all the immunohistochemical aspects of normal and pathological skin: technical aspects (immunofluorescence, immunoperoxidase, immuno-electron microscopy, monoclonal antibodies); procedures of specific identification of cells and other structures involved in pathological conditions; immunohistochemical diagnostic criteria of skin tumours and inflammatory dermatoses. The German authors and editors have written some short appendages adding up-dated information on commercially available monoclonal antibodies, on immunocyto-l-ogy and molecular biology applied to diagnosis (in situ hybridization and polymerase chain reaction). The laboratory methods (pp. 15^-42) are thoroughly described, and everyone following these instructions should have reproducible immunostainings. Most of the cited mono-or polyclonal antibodies with abbreviated denominations do not correspond to available kits, and the appendage of pp. 40-42 is welcome. In

Rene Touraine, Jean Revuz
Dermatologie clinique et vénéréologie
Collection Abrégés de Médecine Masson, Paris 1991 XIV+400 pp.; 150 fig.; FF 158.00 ISBN 2-225-82^164-9

This is the third edition of a successful French book which presents a nice condensate of clinical dermatology, to fill the needs of medical students, general practitioners and non-dermatology specialists.

As the authors wrote in their introduction to the first edition (1981), this book is intended to help the physician to be able to diagnose and treat the common dermatoses, to recognize the
cutaneous symptoms and to fully participate in a dialogue with a consultant dermatologist. It is not a book for a certified dermatologist, and little attention is paid to the rare dermatoses. Professor Revuz is known for his didactic skills and for his attention to a modern terminology. These qualities are prominent in this book.

Daniel Wallach, Paris

Mitchel P. Goldman

Sclerotherapy

Treatment of Varicose and Telangiectatic Leg Veins


This book, as stated by the author, ‘is written in an effort to present in a coherent fashion all of the available information necessary for the physician to obtain a working expertise in the treatment of varicose and telangiectatic leg veins’. This goal is fully achieved inasmuch as sclerotherapy treatment used for decades in Europe has only recently been recognized in North America.

The book is divided into 13 chapters. The best ones are not the first 3 concerning anatomy, pathophysiology and cutaneous complications of venous hypertension. These topics are treated more clearly in recent European textbooks, but that was not the main objective of the work. In contrast practical aspects of clinical examination, compression and sclerotherapy techniques are fully described. A remarkable contribution is made by the author’s own work in the fields of mechanisms of action of sclerotherapy (chapter 7) and in laser treatment of telangiectasia (chapter 12). The surgical approach is concentrated in only one short chapter which forgets to mention recently described surgical techniques such as cryosurgery or the hemodynamic cure of varicose veins.

Finally many useful practical indications are given in a last chapter and in appendices concerning the equipment required to set up a sclerotherapy practice.

This book is a valuable guide to all non-European English-speaking dermatologists desirous to become familiar with medical phlebology and who were without consistent English-written reference sources in this field.

J.J. Guilhou, Montpellier

David J. Gawkrodger

Dermatology


The purpose of the author, who is consultant dermatologist in Sheffield, was to offer a modern text, attractively and concisely presented at an affordable price. His book is lavishly illustrated with colour photographs, line drawings, tables, bulleted items and ‘key point’ summaries.

The book is aimed at medical students, but contains sufficient detail to be of use to family practitioners, physicians in internal medicine, registrars or residents in dermatology, and dermatology nurses.

The contents are divided into three sections. The first presents a scientific basis for the understanding of/and clinical approach to skin disease. The basic principles permit the reader in 22 pages to clearly understand the anatomy, physiology, biochemistry and immunology of the skin. Terminology of skin lesions which is essential in dermatology is very well presented with beautiful drawings. There is even 1 page devoted to the psyche and the skin.

The second section details in 70 pages the major dermatological conditions. There are chapters on ‘eruptions’ (e.g. psoriasis, eczema), on ‘infections’ (bacterial, viral, fungal), on disorders of
specific skin structures (e.g. hair, nails), on allergy and auto-immunity, on internal medicine
(drug eruptions belong to this chapter) on inherited disorders and on skin tumours.
The third and last section (16 pages) outlines special topics, such as photo-aging and
dermatological surgery. There is also 1 page with self-help group addresses in the UK and USA,
extremely useful for the busy physician and their patients.
Finally, the index is excellent. I do recommend this book to those for whom the author wrote it.
They will enjoy using it, and it is good value for money.
R. Baran, Cannes
Brunello Wüthrich
Highlights in Allergy and Clinical Immunology
Hogrefe & Huber, Huber, Bern 1992
XIII + 306 pp.; SFr. 74.-
This volume summarizes the highlights of the congress of the European Academy of Allergy and
Clinical Immunology in Zurich, May 1991. The title is correct; the chapters represent really
‘highlights’. They cover such different issues as genetics and regulation of IgE response,
immunological tolerance, asthma and inflammation, autoimmunity, epidemiology and
socioeconomic aspects, pediatric allergy and atopy prophylaxis, the skin as an immune organ,
neuro-peptides and allergy, new diagnostic tests as well as new concepts of antiallergic
treatment. The chapters are well written and illustrated and represent high-level postgraduate
education in summarizing the state of the art to the relevant topic. This book is necessary for
everybody who wants to keep up with the progress in experimental and clinical allergology.
/. Ring, Hamburg
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Book Reviews
A. Bernard Ackerman, A. Maria N. Mendonça, Ying Guo
K. Zürcher, A, Krebs
Differential Diagnosis in Dermatopathology I, 2nd ed.
Dr. Ackerman has once compared dermatopathology to an exciting international airport that can
be approached on many runways. The first most important runway or theme is that of reliable
and repeatable criteria for diagnosis and differential diagnosis. By striving to establish precise
criteria for diagnosis of skin diseases that are similar histologically but are different clinically
and in biologic course, three volumes with the title ‘Differential Diagnosis in Dermatopathology’
(vol. I, II, III) have been published.
This volume is the second edition of Differential Diagnosis in Dermatopathology /, which first
appeared in 1982. In fact, this is almost a new book because each chapter has been thoroughly
recast and rewritten.
Novel concepts, new insights and interesting perspectives are explored and presented throughout
the text. The glossary has been enlarged and many new instructive photomicrographs have been
added to replace original ones.
This is a beautifully designed book with illustrations of exceptional quality. The presentation is
identical to the original edition. 45 pairs of skin diseases of practical importance that cause
difficulties in differential diagnosis because they have many histologic features in common, are
shown. The criteria for diagnoses are presented in enumerated telegraphic statements comparing
and contrasting each set of disease. Examples are: psoriasis vs. nummular dermatitis or Spitz’s nevus vs. malignant melanoma. Following the diagnostic tables and the color pictures (clinical pictures and photomicrographs reproduced at low, medium and high magnification) is a clear very informative and stimulating discussion on the histologic and clinical features of the paired diseases, reflecting as Dr. Ackerman writes in the preface ‘an expression of intellectual growth in dermatopathology’.

There are some controversial ideas and not every one would accept the statement that ‘digitate dermatosis is a variant of guttate parapsoriasis’. No references are given, but I agree with Dr. Ackerman that this is not necessary because his personal interpretations of several skin diseases are given.

In my opinion Differential Diagnosis I is a superb piece of work which illustrates how to teach modern dermatopathology. It can be strongly recommended to dermatopathologists and pathologists and is ideally suited for every serious resident in dermatology.

H. Kerl, Graz

Cutaneous Drug Reactions
An Integral Synopsis of Today’s Systemic Drugs S. Karger AG, Basel 1992
VIII + 570 pp.; SFr. 496.-/DM 594.-/US $ 397.00 ISBN 3-8055-4939-3

This compilation of dozen years of experience of the authors in the field of cutaneous drug reactions contains a tremendous amount of data presented in a way allowing a very easy everyday use. Only 30 of its 570 pages, are devoted to general considerations on adverse drug reactions. Most of the book consists of tables.

265 pages of ‘drug tables’ provide for each drug a comprehensive and referenced list of published skin reactions. An alphabetic index of drugs, including both generic international denominations and brand names, allows very quick access to the appropriate table. These tables are easily understandable and include a very large amount of information. For example looking at the table devoted to co-trimoxazole (Bactrim®, Septrim®) one reads at a glance that the incidence of exanthema in patients treated with co-trimoxazole has been rated from 1.4 to 14% (with a mean of 3.5%) in 12 studies dealing with immunocompetent patients and from 25 to 69% in 7 studies of HIV-infected patients. One also finds in the same table, on a single page, more than 70 references to other types of skin reactions and valuable comments on frequent and rare cutaneous side effects attributed to the drug.

98 pages are assigned to tables of sign/symptom with a comprehensive list of possible drug causes for each kind of reaction, frequent inducers being signaled by bold typing. Here again, the authors have made a tremendous work to insure the completeness of the enclosed information. It took me several weeks of regular use of this book to find a defective item (glafenin is not mentioned as a possible cause of angio-oedema).

All the tables are supported by 5598 references.

This book is certainly the best data source on cutaneous drug reactions available today and a valuable addition to Bruinsma’s Guide to Drug Eruptions. It will prove essential not only to dermatologists but to every one involved in the survey of adverse drug reactions.

Rougeau, Créteil

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