



Important Learning Outcomes

Many of these outcomes identified as “important” in a Delphi study might reasonably be included in the core curricula in addition to the “very important” outcomes on which the core provided on this website is based. But curriculum designers must avoid the temptation to “cover” dermatology and overload curricula as this will push students towards a surface approach to learning without deeper understanding. Some students will chose to spend more time studying dermatology and some of these “important” topics might be addressed in the student-selected components of the course.

Background Knowledge

Students should be able to:

- Describe the epidemiology of skin disease in the community
- Describe biochemical / biological pathways in skin e.g. triple response, inflammatory cascades
- Describe the biology of the keratinocyte / melanocyte / epidermis
- Describe the psychosocial impact of skin disease on patients, their families and friends
- Describe the role of dermatology nurses in the community and hospital

Skin Failure and Emergency Dermatology

Students should be able to demonstrate they can recognise these emergency presentations and discuss the causes and potential complications:

- Generalised pustular psoriasis

Students should be able to demonstrate that they can provide first contact care, including resuscitation, in these emergencies:

- Erythroderma
- Generalised pustular psoriasis
- Eczema herpeticum

Inflammatory Diseases

Students should be able to describe the presentation, demonstrate assessment, formulate a differential diagnosis, instigate investigation and discuss how to provide continuing care of:

- Contact dermatitis (allergic, irritant)
- Psoriasis

Preventative medicine

Students should be able to describe the principles of prevention in

- Scabies
- Hand dermatitis
- Dry skin in the elderly

Common and Important Problems

Students should be able to formulate a differential diagnosis, describe the investigation and discuss the management in patients with:

- Lymphoedema
- Scaly erythematous rashes
- Red face
- Blistering / vesiculation (localised or widespread)
- Mouth ulcers
- Hair loss

Tumours

Students should be able to recognise:

- Viral warts
- Epidermoid (“sebaceous”) cysts
- Melanocytic naevi (moles)
- Seborrhoeic warts
- Solar keratoses
- Bowen’s disease
- Dermatofibroma
- Keratoacanthoma
- Lipoma
- Pyogenic granuloma
- Mycosis fungoides (cutaneous T-cell lymphoma)
- Paget’s disease of the nipple
- Cutaneous metastases

Signs of Systemic Disease

Students should be able to recognise and describe the potential significance of these problems:

- Nail fold erythema, dilated nailfold capillaries
- Pigment change (loss or gain)
- Photosensitivity
- Scleroderma and sclerodactyly
- Erythema nodosum
- Erythema multiforme
- Pyoderma gangrenosum

Skin infections and infestations

Students should be able to describe the presentation, investigation and management of:

- Scabies
- Insect bites
- Lice infestation
- Impetigo and folliculitis
- Viral warts
- Herpes simplex infection
- Herpes zoster infection
- Molluscum contagiosum
- Dermatophyte infections (“ringworm”)
- Candida albicans infection (skin, mucosal)
- Pityriasis versicolor
- Pityriasis rosea
- Syphilis

Students should be able to describe cutaneous signs in:

- Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection
- Tuberculosis

Drug eruptions

Students should be able to recognise and describe these drug-induced skin reactions:

- Photosensitivity

Management and Therapeutics

Students should be able to describe:

- The principles of use of topical antifungals
- The principles of use of topical antibacterials
- The principles of use of topical retinoids
- The principles of use of topical vitamin D analogues
- The principles of use of coal tar
- The principles of use of oral retinoids
- The principles of use of methotrexate
- The principles of use of ciclosporin
- The principles of use of topical calcineurin inhibitors e.g. tacrolimus

- The indications for and the complications of UVB (phototherapy) and PUVA (photochemotherapy)
- Indications for and use of simple cutaneous surgical modalities for treating skin cancer e.g. excision, curettage, cryosurgery

Clinical Skills

Students should be able to:

- Write a prescription for a topical corticosteroid showing knowledge of quantities and bases
- Apply topical medicaments