

# A PEDIATRIC DERMATOLOGY PRIMER



*Aimee Smidt, MD*

*University of New Mexico School of Medicine*

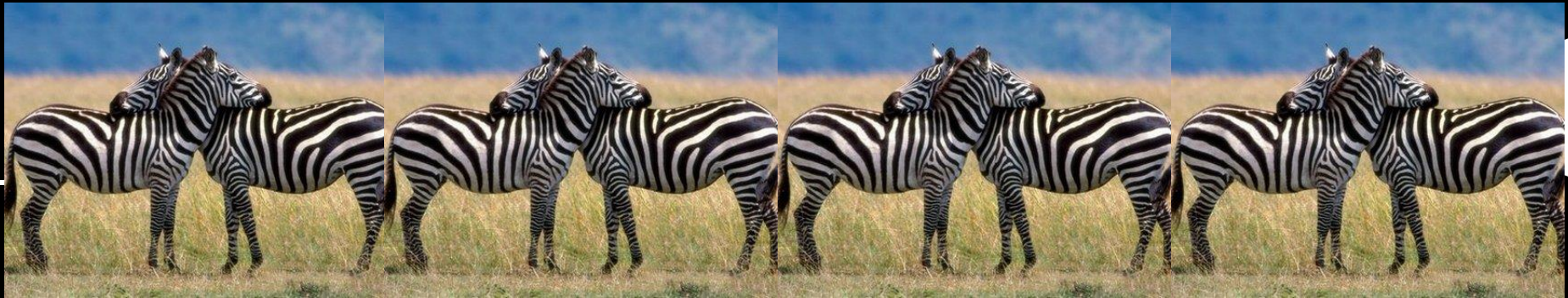
*Depts. of Dermatology & Pediatrics*

*I HAVE NO FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS OR  
CONFLICTS OF INTEREST TO DISCLOSE.*

*I will discuss off-label use of various medications.*



- Descriptions: The most important part
- Common: When to treat, when to refer
- Pearls for Not-to-miss diagnoses
- Some Zebras you should know about



# *Descriptions –*

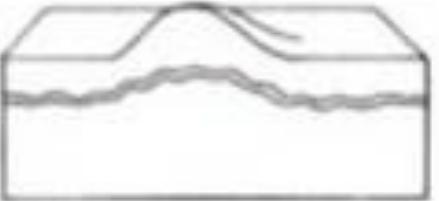
- The most important thing you can do WELL when talking with your Dermatology colleagues
  - You will lose us at “maculopapular” ...
- 



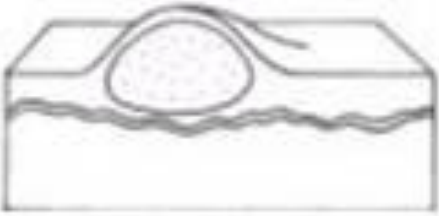
# Primary Lesions



**MACULE:**  
Flat < 1 cm

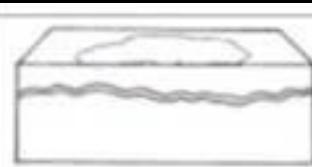


**PAPULE:**  
Raised < 1 cm



**VESICLE:**  
Clear fluid-filled < 1 cm

**PUSTULE:**  
White fluid-filled



**PATCH:**  
Flat > 1 cm



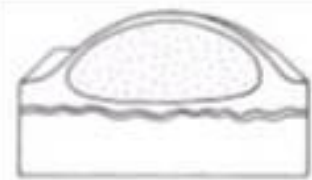
**PLAQUE:**  
Raised > 1 cm



**NODULE:**  
Raised + Deep > 1cm



**TUMOR:**  
Raised + Deep > 2cm



**BULLA:**  
Clear fluid-filled > 1cm



# *Secondary Changes*

- CRUST: Dried exudate: blood, serum, pus
  - SCALE: Accumulated skin (stratum corneum)
  - EXCORIATION: Traumatized due to scratching
  - FISSURE: Linear cleavage
  - EROSION: Depression with loss of epidermis (superficial)
  - ULCER: Depression with loss of epidermis & dermis (deeper)
  - LICHENIFICATION: Thickening, accentuated skin lines
  - ATROPHY: Depression, thinning & wrinkling
  - SCAR: Permanent fibrotic change
-





# *Putting it all together...*

- Location
- Solitary vs Multiple
- Configuration
- Size\*
- Color
- Primary lesion
- Secondary changes

\* Measure if in question!

---



# *Common Peds Derm: When you should handle, when you should refer*



- Atopic Dermatitis
- Hemangiomas
- Nevi
- Molluscum
- Verruca
- Acne

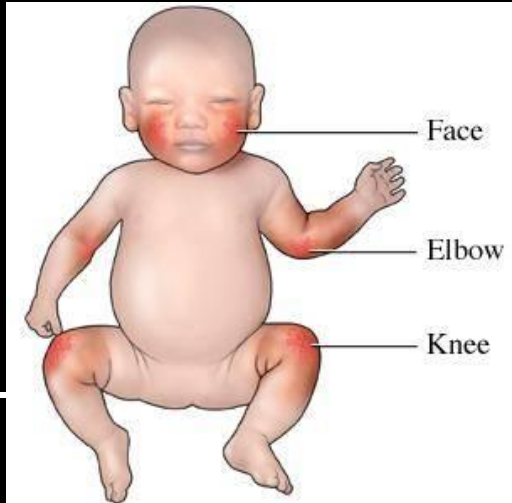
*This patient has suffered from chronic, itchy rashes since infancy. His parents bring him today because he is flaring worse than usual.*

*Appropriate treatment now would include:*

- A) Topical steroids
  - B) Oral hydroxyzine
  - C) Oral antibiotics
  - D) Oral steroids
  - E) A, B, C
  - F) All of the above
- 



# *Atopic Dermatitis*



- Common in infancy
- Regresses by school age in most children
- Typical distribution changes with age
  
- Associated with food allergies (30%) but usually NOT direct cause & effect
  
- DRY SKIN CARE RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Gentle skin care
  - Daily or every other day lukewarm bath
  - Dove soap, Cetaphil cleanser
  
- Emollient/moisturizer BID+
  - CREAM best, not lotion
  - Cerave, Eucerin, Cetaphil, Aveeno cream
  - Vaseline, Aquaphor ointment
  - Applied after bathing

# *Atopic Dermatitis*



- Topical steroids (ointments) BID
- Topical non-steroidals:
  - Tacrolimus (Protopic ointmt)
  - Pimecrolimus (Elidel crm)
  - Crisaborole (Eucrisa)
- Oral sedating antihistamine
  - Hydroxyzine 1 mg/kg/dose Nightly
- Monitor (culture) for infection as cause for flares
- Dilute bleach baths
- Inquire about allergies (foods) but NOT usually cause and effect, ASSOCIATION



# *Atopic Dermatitis: Topical Steroids*

- LOW for Face, Diaper, Skin Folds
  - Hydrocortisone 2.5%
  - Alclometasone
  - Fluocinolone OIL
- MEDIUM for Body
  - Triamcinolone 0.1%
  - Fluocinolone
- HIGH for Extremities, Hands, Feet
  - Mometasone
  - Fluocinonide
- SUPER-HIGH for certain circumstances
  - Clobetasol
  - Betamethasone dipropionate
- Give parents enough! 60 gm or more
- Consider households
- OINTMENTS preferred
  - Creams for adolescents
  - Oil or lotions for scalp



# *Atopic Dermatitis: When to Refer*

- Not responsive to traditional therapy
- Moderate to severe
- Frequent bad flares or infections (MRSA)
- Failure to thrive (Immunodeficiency)
- Localized or recalcitrant areas
- Atypical lesions



# *Keratosis Pilaris*

- Benign skin “type”
- Associated w atopy, dry skin, ichthyosis

## Treatments:

- No need for referral!
- Reassurance
- Gentle cleansing (no scrubs/loofah!)
- Laser if erythema but cosmetic
- Keratolytics:
  - Salicylic acid (eg Cerave SA, Eucerin Plus)
  - Urea (eg Carmol, Excipial)
  - Lactic acid (eg AmLactin)
  - Glycolic acid (\$\$)





*This child presents at his 3-month check with these findings. You tell the parents:*



- A) No treatment is necessary; the lesion will regress on its own
- B) You will begin treating with topical steroids
- C) You will refer to Derm for further management
- D) You will put in a referral to Plastic Surgery for excision

# *Hemangiomas*



- Up to 5-10% healthy infants
- Benign vascular tumor
- Localized vs Segmental
- Superficial, Combined, Deep
- Typical time course
  - Present at few wks of age
  - Grow rapidly in first 3(-6) months
  - Slower growth until 1 year
  - Plateau phase followed by regression by school age



# *Hemangiomas: When to Refer*



- Function or Life-Threatening:
  - Periorbital
  - Lips
  - Nasal tip
  - Perineum
  - Ear (if extensive)
  - Airway
  - Hepatic



# *Hemangiomas: When to Refer*

- Cosmetic/Psychosocial
  - Large Facial (PHACES)
  - “Beard” distribution
  - Ulcerating
  - Multiple (>5)
  - Lumbosacral
  - Atypical History or Appearance
- 



# *Hemangiomas: Treatment*

- Appropriate treatment in many:
    - “Active nonintervention”
  - Emphasize regression, not necessarily complete resolution
  - Laser appropriate for residual/stable lesions, not actively growing ones
  
  - Topical timolol
    - 0.5% ophtho (gel-forming) solution BID
  - Oral propranolol
    - 1-3 mg/kg/day div BID
  
  - Topical steroids
  - IL steroids
  - Oral steroids
  - Surgery
  - (Vincristine, IFN-alpha)
- 



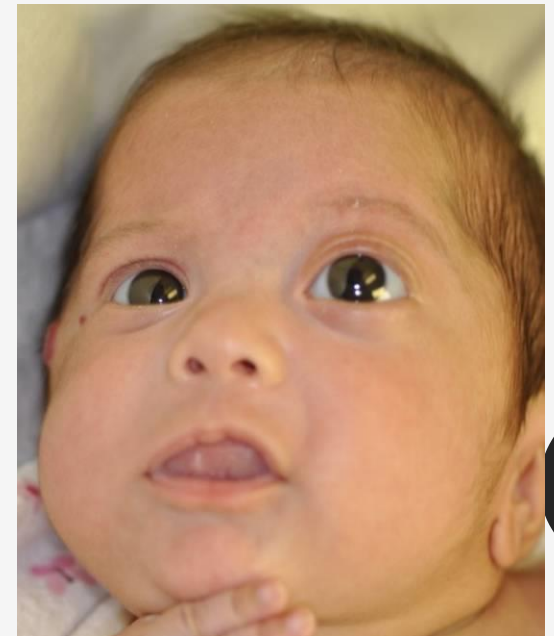
# *Propranolol for Infantile Hemangiomas*

- Indications:
  - Function-threatening/severe disfigurement
  - Risk of complications (ulceration)
- Outpatient if >5 wks old (corrected)
- Screen for risk cardiac dz or asthma (EKG not required if none)
- Baseline + 1<sup>st</sup> dose HR/BP
- ALWAYS w feeds, hold if ill (risk hypoglycemia)
- Different dosing guidelines
  - Start at 1 mg/kg div BID-TID
  - Increase to 2 mg/kg (if needed) after 3-5 days
- [http://pedsderm.net/site/assets/files/1028/12\\_spd\\_p propranolol\\_color\\_web-final.pdf](http://pedsderm.net/site/assets/files/1028/12_spd_p propranolol_color_web-final.pdf)



# *Hemangiomas: When to Refer*

- If any concern, refer early!
- Most of the significant growth probably done by 2-3 months!



*You evaluate this baby at a 2-week check.  
You are concerned that:*



- A) There is an increased risk of melanoma
- B) There is an increased risk of neurologic involvement
- C) The family may want to consult Plastic Surgery
- D) All of the above
- E) None of the above





# *Nevi (Moles)*



- Benign growths of pigmented cells (melanocytes)
- Congenital when appear within 1<sup>st</sup> year
- Most arise in school-age, continue through adulthood
- Increased # associated with sun exposure, family history
- ABCDEs & Ugly duckling rule
- Reassurance!
- Self-monitoring, sun protection

# *Nevi: When to refer*

- Rapid change
- “Ugly duckling” or atypical nevus
- Too many nevi to track
- Disfiguring appearance
- Medium to large congenital
- Family history of melanoma (1<sup>st</sup> degree)
- Heavy sun exposure, tanning bed history



# *Congenital Nevi: When to refer*



- Small (<2cm)
  - Essentially NO elevated risk
  - Hair is normal!
- Medium (2-20 cm)
  - ? Risk of melanoma
  - Often disfiguring, especially facial
- Large or Giant (>20 cm)
  - Disfiguring
  - ++Risk of melanoma
- Risk of occult spinal dysraphism:
  - Midline lumbosacral location
- Risk of neurocutaneous melanosis:
  - Posterior axial location
  - Multiple (20+) satellites

# *Nevi: Dermatoscopy & Confocal Microscopy*

- Clinical exam techniques
- Allows greater appreciation for pattern, network of melanocytic and non-melanocytic lesions
- Can often give presumptive diagnosis
- Biopsy may still be necessary in some cases



*This teenage boy is new to your practice. You note these findings. You should:*



- A) Inquire about potential causes of immunosuppression
- B) Prescribe benzoyl peroxide-clindamycin and topical retinoid
- C) Reassure that they will spontaneously resolve
- D) Treat them with cryotherapy

# *Verruca (Warts)*



- Human Papillomavirus
- Common, any location
- Problematic in immunosuppressed
  - Transplant
  - HIV+
- 1<sup>st</sup> Line Treatment:
  - OTC salicylic acid daily
  - Occlusion
  - Paring (blade/pumice)
  - Liquid nitrogen cryotherapy

# Verruca (Warts)

- Refer if:
    - Extensive
    - Difficult location or significant pain
    - Not responsive to *consistent* 1<sup>st</sup> line therapy
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Line Treatment:
    - Topical 5-FU (ideally w SA)
    - Topical imiquimod
    - ?Topical tretinoin
    - Oral cimetidine (30-40 mg/kg/day)
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Line Treatment:
    - Injectables: Candida, Bleomycin, Cidofovir, HPV Vaccine
    - Immunotherapy: Squaric acid
    - Laser/Surgery
- 



# *Molluscum Contagiosum*

- DNA Poxvirus
- Common in preschool
- ? Spread in water/barrier dysfunction
- Any location including genitals
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> Line Treatment:
  - WATCHFUL WAITING
  - Cantharidin application
  - (Low strength topical steroid)
  - Cryotherapy
  
- When to Refer:
  - Extensive, large or atypical lesions
  - Facial or genital
  - Severe associated dermatitis
  - Immunosuppression
  
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Line Treatment:
  - Curettage
  - Topical retinoid
  - Topical imiquimod (Aldara)
  - Topical/IL Cidofovir





*This adolescent girl comes to you because she is very frustrated by acne. She has used “every” OTC product with no improvement. You recommend:*

- A) Topical benzoyl peroxide-clindamycin
- B) Topical retinoid
- C) Consideration of OCP
- D) A and B
- E) A, B, and C



# Acne



- Very common in adolescents
- Neonatal (first wks – months) usually self-resolving, not really “acne”
- Childhood (months – yrs) more likely to need treatment
- Monitor for potential scarring

## TREATMENT

- Topicals (Always 1<sup>st</sup> Line)
- Oral antibiotics
  - Doxy, mino, or tetracycline
  - Cephalexin, TMP-SMX
  - Erythromycin, (Dapsone)
- Oral contraceptives, spironolactone
- Oral isotretinoin
- ? Blue Light/Laser



# *Acne: Comedonal, Inflammatory or Both?*

- **COMEDONAL** (Typically early, T-zone)
  - Topical retinoid
- **INFLAMMATORY**
  - BP, Sal acid, Topical antibiotic or combo
  - Oral antibiotic
- **BOTH** (Most common)
  - BP, Sal acid, Topical antibiotic or combo
  - Topical retinoid
  - Oral antibiotic
  - Consider oral isotretinoin
- **HORMONAL** (Cyclical, lower face)
  - Oral contraceptive, spironolactone
- **SEVERE OR CYSTIC**

---

  - All of the above
  - Oral isotretinoin



# Acne: Topical Medications



- **BENZOYL PEROXIDE:** cream, gel or wash
  - Anti-inflammatory and antibiotic
  - Can be drying/irritating, bleaches
- **SALICYLIC ACID:** cream, wash
  - Helps with skin turnover, pigmentation
- **ANTIBIOTICS:** Clindamycin, Erythromycin
  - Anti-inflammatory properties
  - Need to be used in combination!



- **RETINOIDS**
  - Apply pea-size amount nightly, start out slow!
  - Low: Differin (Adapalene)
  - Medium: Retin-A micro (Tretinoin)
  - High: Tazorac (Tazarotene)
- **COMBINATION PRODUCTS**
  - Newer, so more expensive...
  - Duac gel: BP + Clindamycin
  - Ziana gel: Tretinoin + Clindamycin
  - Epiduo: BP + Adapalene

# *Acne: When to Refer*

- Any concern for scarring
  - Childhood onset or other associations in a young patient
  - Not responsive to 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment
  - Psychological disturbance (even if mild)
- 



# *Pearls for not-so-common Peds Derm (That you shouldn't miss)*

- Stevens-Johnson/TEN
  - Staph scalded skin
  - Kawasaki disease
  - DRESS syndrome
  - HSV
  - Deep fungal infections
- 



# *Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/ Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis*



- Hypersensitivity disorder
- In kids, SJS > TEN
- Secondary to viral illness, *Mycoplasma*, medication, other
- Fever, systemic sx, mucosal erosions + epidermal detachment:
  - <10% SJS
  - 10-30% Overlap
  - >30% TEN
- Presenting signs: fever, malaise, mucosal pain/swelling, photophobia, erythematous macular eruption
- Most common meds for TEN:
  - Anti-epileptics
  - Sulphonamides
  - PCNs
  - Allopurinol
  - NSAIDs

# *Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/ Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis*

- Can evolve rapidly!
  - Needs ICU monitoring
  - Ophtho/Gyn/Uro evaluation
  - Fluid management
  - Dressings
  - Pain control
  - Treatment controversial
    - IVIG
    - Cyclosporine
    - Etanercept?
    - Steroids?
- 





# *Staph Scalded Skin Syndrome*

- Epidermolytic-toxin producing *S aureus*
  - Infants, decreased renal function, immunocompromised
  - Starts with localized infxn → generalized, systemic sx
  - Peeling accentuated at perioral, folds
  - Diff Dx: TEN, EB, Burn
  
  - Must culture primary site!
  - NO mucosal involvement
  - Treatment: Systemic anti-staphylococcal antibiotic (PO or IV)
- 



# *Kawasaki Disease: Diagnostic Criteria*



- Fever for 5+ days
- Plus at least 4:
  - Bilateral conjunctival injection
  - Oral changes: injected pharynx, injected or fissured lips, strawberry tongue
  - Peripheral extremity changes: erythema or edema (acute), desquamation (convalescent)
  - Polymorphous rash
  - Cervical lymphadenopathy (>1.5 cm)

High index of suspicion for  
“incomplete KD”

# *Kawasaki Disease: Mucocutaneous Findings*

- Dry, red, fissured crusted lips
- Nonpurulent conjunctival injection
- Peripheral edema
- Erythematous or urticarial eruption
- Desquamation (late finding)
- Variants: Scarlet fever-like, Erythema multiforme-like, Psoriasiform, Pustular
- Should NOT see blistering or purpura
  
- Diff Dx: Viral, SSSS, TEN, etc
- Pearls: Irritability, persistent fever, perineal or acral accentuation



# *DRESS Syndrome:*

## *Drug Rash (Reaction) with Eosinophilia & Systemic Symptoms*

- Aka Drug Hypersensitivity Syndrome
  - 2-6 wks after starting medication
  - Fever, malaise, LAD
  - Edema → erythema, pruritus
  - Can also resemble TEN
  - Most common systemic = Hepatitis
  - Atypical lymphocytosis, eos
  - Common offending agents: Aromatic anticonvulsants, sulfonamides, minocycline
  - Discontinue medication
  - +/- Systemic steroids
- 



# *Herpes Simplex Virus*



- Typically grouped vesicles on erythematous base, but have high index of suspicion in neonates
- Can become pustular within 1-2 days, widespread
- Traditionally divided, but overlap:
  - Skin, eyes, mouth (SEM)
  - CNS
  - Disseminated

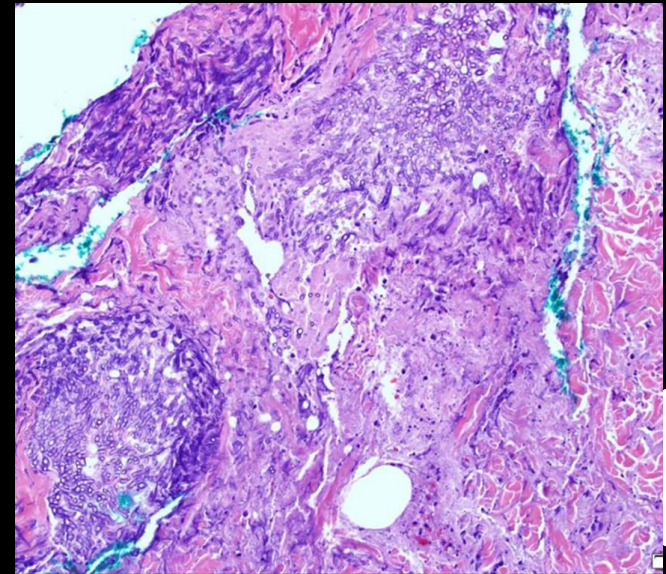


- In children with atopic dermatitis, consider eczema herpeticum if atypical flare
- “Punched-out erosions”
- Often secondary bacterial infection requiring antibiotics
- Continue to treat eczema with steroids around sites of HSV

# Deep Fungal Infections



- Candida, Aspergillus, Mucor, Fusarium
- Major risk factors:
  - Immunocompromise
  - Cutaneous trauma
- Erythema with necrosis, eschar formation
- Diff Dx: Ecthyma (*Pseudomonas*), vasculitis
- LOW threshold for biopsy!



*Peds Derm Quiz Cases:  
What's the Diagnosis?*



*A 4 yo girl has had this large, firm mass since birth. The mass has never changed in size, but intermittently becomes swollen and painful. What is the diagnosis?*

- A) Hemangioma
- B) Lipoma
- C) Rhabdomyosarcoma
- D) Vascular (venous) malformation





*This patient was born with a smooth hairless plaque at her scalp, which has been thickening in adolescence. What is the diagnosis?*

- A) Aplasia cutis
- B) Epidermal nevus
- C) Nevus comedonicus
- D) Nevus sebaceus



*These siblings, immigrants from Somalia, have a lifelong history of diffuse scale and xerosis (dryness) over their entire bodies, accentuated at their faces, hands and feet, with ectropion. What is the diagnosis?*



- A) Allergic contact dermatitis
- B) Congenital ichthyosis
- C) Difficult adjustment to desert climate
- D) Severe atopic dermatitis

*A well-appearing boy is hospitalized for this progressive asymptomatic eruption, present for 3 weeks. It involves the face, extensor arms, buttocks and legs, sparing the trunk. What is the most likely diagnosis?*

- A) COVID-19 Infection
  - B) Gianotti-Crosti syndrome (Papular acrodermatitis)
  - C) Pustular Psoriasis
  - D) Urticaria
  - E) Varicella
- 



*This healthy boy presents with a slightly tender bluish nodule enlarging over several months. It is rock-hard on palpation, and exhibits a “see-saw” sign. What is the diagnosis?*

- A) Cystic acne
- B) Dermoid cyst
- C) Epidermal cyst
- D) Pilomatricoma



*An 8-year-old boy presents with this diffuse pruritic (itchy) eruption. On exam, you also note what looks like allergic contact dermatitis to his belt buckle. What is the diagnosis?*



- A) Dermatophytid ("Id") Reaction
- B) Flat warts
- C) Molluscum contagiosum
- D) Urticaria

*This ring-shaped dermal plaque has been present for several months in a healthy preteen. It is asymptomatic, firm, but not rock-hard. What is the diagnosis?*



- A) Abscess
- B) B-cell lymphoma
- C) Discoid lupus
- D) Granuloma annulare
- E) Tinea corporis

*This 9-month-old girl developed bizarre tan patches on her back after returning from a vacation with her parents in Mexico. What is the diagnosis?*



- A) Child abuse
- B) COVID-19 infection
- C) Cupping
- D) Phytophotodermatitis
- E) The magic marker sign (ie just wash it off)

*This healthy infant presents with a progressive scaly eruption which started in the diaper area. There is a history of “flaky scalp” in several close family members. What is the diagnosis?*

- A) Atopic dermatitis
- B) Langerhans cell histiocytosis
- C) Psoriasis
- D) Scabies





*asmidt@salud.unm.edu*

***THANK YOU!***

---