

Family Medicine Clerkship

Curriculum Resources



[ACGME Competencies](#)

Clerkship Objectives organized by [ACGME & FM Themes](#)

[FM Principles](#)

Core Topics

[Special Topics](#)

[General Resources](#)

[Clerkship Setting](#)

[Faculty Development](#)

[Glossary](#)

[FMCR Members](#)

[User's Guide](#)

[Future of FM Report](#)

Skin Problems

OVERVIEW

Pattern recognition plays a large role in the learning and practice of dermatology. The first step for the students is to learn the basic morphology of the primary and secondary lesions. Learning the vocabulary and conceptual models will maximize the students' ability to observe, describe, and diagnose skin problems.

Many skin conditions (acne, seborrhea, psoriasis, and eczema) are worsened by stress. Therefore, it is important to take into account the whole patient when treating many skin conditions. Some skin conditions are the results of sexually transmitted infections or sun exposure; in such cases it is not enough to prescribe a medicine or cut out a cancer. Students will need to address the lifestyle changes necessary to prevent recurrence. Finally, optimal treatment and compliance depend on the patient's having a good understanding of the diagnosis and treatment. Therefore, good health care to patients with skin conditions often requires a comprehensive approach to the patient, taking into account the principles of counseling for health education, prevention, psychosocial stressors, and attention to the role of the family.

TOPIC LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

(Organized by ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

GOAL: Students will recognize the importance of communication and patient education in caring for patients' skin problems.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Provide patient education verbally along with appropriate handouts on skin problems.
- Discuss the role of stress and other exacerbating factors in various skin diseases.

Medical Knowledge

GOAL: Students will develop a personal dermatological knowledge base within the scope of primary care.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Accurately describe skin lesions and rashes.
- Define terms that describe the morphology, shape, and pattern of skin lesions.
- Recognize the most common lesions and rashes in adults and children.
- Demonstrate the ability to use pattern recognition for quick diagnosis of common skin

problems.

- Understand rationale for the use of common topical and oral dermatological medications.
- Become familiar with acne medications and antibiotics, antifungals, and antiviral medications for the skin.
- Discuss the choice of topical steroids by potency and vehicle based on the patient's condition.
- Describe common biopsy procedures including shave biopsy, punch biopsy, and elliptical excision.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

GOAL: Students will understand the barriers to detecting skin cancers at an early stage and apply best practices for early skin cancer detection.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Recognize the appearance of common skin cancers.
- Apply the ABCDE criteria for the evaluation of pigmented lesions as possible melanoma.
- Describe the most common locations of non-melanoma skin cancer.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

GOAL: Students will communicate effectively with patients concerning the diagnosis and treatment of their skin conditions and skin cancer risk factors.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Describe the importance of and methods for preventing skin cancers.
- Communicate effectively with patients that have worries or concerns about their skin conditions.
- Appreciate the importance of providing informed consent to patients prior to skin surgery procedures.

Professionalism

GOAL: Students will establish and adhere to high personal standards in the provision of skin care to patients.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Communicate honestly and openly with patients about their skin conditions and the risk factors for skin cancer.

Systems-Based Practice

GOAL: Students will appraise and utilize the best evidence in caring for patients with or at risk for various skin conditions.

OBJECTIVE: Students will:

- Find and use high-quality Web sites as resources for use in caring for patients with skin problems.
- Use the Internet and the written dermatology literature to confirm diagnostic hypothesis for various skin disorders.

EDUCATIONAL METHODS AND RESOURCES

Clinical Experience

- Counsel patients in clinical settings about such common problems as acne and eczema.

Independent Learning:

- The Interactive Dermatology Atlas site contains more than 50 simulated dermatology cases seen and treated by a family physician. It also has a quiz mode on more than 900 photographs and has a wealth of information on dermatology. It is a great resource for independent learning. Finally, it contains a search engine that allows the user to find case images by lesion characteristics, patient demographics or treatment types.
<http://fm.mednet.ucla.edu/derm>

Web Sites

- The Interactive Dermatology Atlas site with cases, quiz mode and search engine:
<http://fm.mednet.ucla.edu/derm>
- <http://www.dermis.net> from Germany contains these useful materials:
 - DOIA
Dermatology Online Atlas
browse over 4500 images online
 - PeDOIA
Pediatric Dermatology Atlas
browse over 2000 pediatric images
 - Historical Images: Hebra-Atlas
a dermatological historical experience
 - NeurodermIS
Neurodermitis Information System
 - Rosacea
What is it all about? How do I treat it?
 - Skin cancer
What is it all about? How do I prevent it?
 - Cases and Lectures
Cases and Lectures
- Dermatology Image Bank in Utah
<http://medstat.med.utah.edu/kw/derm/>
- AAFP Dermatology Curriculum on the Electronic Textbook of Dermatology
<http://telemedicine.org/stamfor1.htm>

Lead Author: Richard Usatine, MD

Clerkship/Post-Clerkship Workgroup members: Ann O'Brien-Gonzales, PhD (Chair), Alexander Chessman, MD (EC Liaison), Caryl Heaton, DO, Janice Nevin, MD, MPH, Lauren Oshman, MD, Deborah McPherson, MD, Mark. E Quirk, EdD, David Schneider, MD, MSPH, William B. Shore, MD, Richard Usatine, MD

Family Medicine Curriculum Resource (FMCR) Project HRSA Contract 240-00-0107.

Revised November 6, 2003

For questions or comments, please contact [Webmaster](#) or [Ardis Davis](#)

This page last updated October 21, 2004