

Dennis A. Vidmar
CAPT MC USN
NNMC Dept of Dermatology
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Operational Dermatology Learning Objectives

A. Introduction

Each primary care medical officer needs some training in dermatology prior to reporting for operational medical duty. This is available during the medical school years (USUHS or HPSP) and internship (Navy or civilian). Knowledge of the most common dermatologic conditions and their associated procedural skills are fundamental to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the conditions encountered in the operational environment.

B. Diagnoses

The provider should be able to diagnose and treat uncomplicated cases of the following diagnoses:

1. Bacterial skin disease
 - impetigo
 - cellulitis
 - erysipelas
 - furunculosis
 - folliculitis
2. Viral skin disease
 - varicella
 - herpes zoster
 - herpes simplex (labialis or genitalis or other)
 - verruca vulgaris
 - condyloma acuminata
 - molluscum contagiosum
3. Fungal skin diseases:
 - tinea pedis
 - tinea cruris
 - tinea corporis
 - tinea capitis
 - tinea versicolor
 - moniliasis
4. Parasitic diseases:
 - scabies
 - pediculosis
 - arthropod bites (spiders, fleas, ticks etc.)

5. Papulosquamous Diseases
 - seborrheic dermatitis
 - psoriasis
 - pityriasis rosea
 - lichen planus
6. Eczematous Dermatitis
 - atopic eczema
 - contact eczema (allergic or irritant)
 - neurodermatitis (Lichen Simplex Chronicus)
 - dyshidrosiform eczema
7. Contact Dermatitis
 - irritant dermatitis
 - allergic dermatitis
8. Acneiform Dermatitis
 - acne vulgaris
 - acne rosacea
9. Hair Diseases
 - alopecia areata
 - male pattern hair loss
 - telogen effluvium
10. Reactive Dermatitis
 - urticaria
 - erythema multiforme (minor, major, TEN)
 - maculopapular drug eruption
 - erythema nodosum
 - viral exanthem
11. Dermatitis Due To Physical Agents
 - sunburn
 - miliaria
 - interigo
 - frostbite
 - xerosis
 - ingrown toenails
12. Venereal Diseases
 - syphilis (primary and secondary)
 - herpes
 - chancroid
 - gonorrhoea
 - condylomata

13. Benign Neoplasms

- melanocytic nevi
- lentigo
- dermatofibroma
- skin tags
- lipoma
- pyogenic granuloma
- epidermal inclusion cyst
- pilar cyst
- milium
- seborrheic keratosis
- actinic keratosis
- keratoacanthoma
- clavus

14. Malignant Neoplasms

- basal cell carcinoma
- squamous cell carcinoma
- melanoma

C. Morphology

The provider should be able to describe lesions and eruptions using the proper descriptive terms for primary and secondary lesions (e. g. macule, papule, nodule, plaque, wheal, vesicle, bulla, lichenification, erosion, ulceration, excoriation, scale, crust etc.

D. Pharmacology

The provider should have familiarity with the basic dermatologic drugs including:

- oral antibiotics
- parenteral ceftriaxone
- griseofulvin
- oral imidazoles (uses and drug interactions)
- oral corticosteroids
- topical steroids
- astringents (domeboro solution, gentian solution etc.)
- topical antifungals
- keratolytics (wart varnish, acid plasters)
- oral antihistamines (uses and drug interactions)
- oral acyclovir
- basic unmedicated emollients
- podophyllin and podofilox

In addition he/she should be able to choose the proper vehicle (i.e. solution vs cream or ointment) in an appropriate strength for the anatomic area involved.

E. Diagnostic Procedures

The provider should be able to perform the following simple diagnostic studies:

- KOH
- gram stain
- scabies prep
- Tzanck smear
- Wood's light exam

F. Surgical Procedures

The provider should be able to understand the indications and methods as well as be able to perform the following surgical procedures:

- Shave biopsy
- Punch biopsy
- Incisional biopsy
- Excisional biopsy
- Cryosurgery, simple (e.g. warts, benign keratoses)
- Incision and drainage (I and D)
- Partial avulsion of nail plate (for ingrown toenails)

G. Preventative Medicine, Occupational Health and Wellness

The provider should understand the effect of occupation, personal hygiene, and the environment upon the incidence, appearance, severity and morbidity caused by dermatologic diseases. He/she will also have a knowledge of simple personal or unit level measures which can minimize the morbidity caused by these conditions.