

Skin Lesion Reference Guide



Bulla

Circumscribed collection of free fluid, >1 cm



Macule

Circular flat discoloration, <1 cm brown, blue, red or hypopigmented



Nodule

Circular, elevated, solid lesion, >1cm



Patch

Circumscribed flat discoloration, >1cm



Papule

Superficial solid elevated, ≤ 0.5 cm, color varies



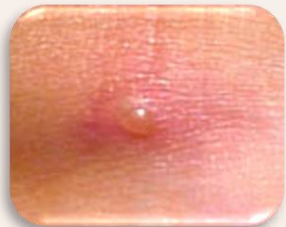
Plaque

Superficial elevated solid flat topped lesion, >1 cm



Pustule

Vesicle containing pus (inflammatory cells)



Vesicle

Circular collection of free fluid, ≤ 1 cm



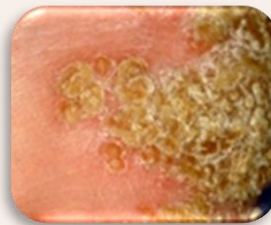
Wheal

Edematous, transitory plaque, may last few hours



Scale

Epidermal thickening; consists of flakes or plates of compacted desquamated layers of stratum corneum



Crust

Dried serum or exudate on skin



Fissure

Crack or split



Excoriation

Linear erosion



Erosion

Loss of epidermis (superficial); Part or all of the epidermis has been lost



Lichenification

Thickening of the epidermis seen with exaggeration of normal skin lines



Scar

Thickening; permanent fibrotic changes that occur on the skin following damage to the dermis

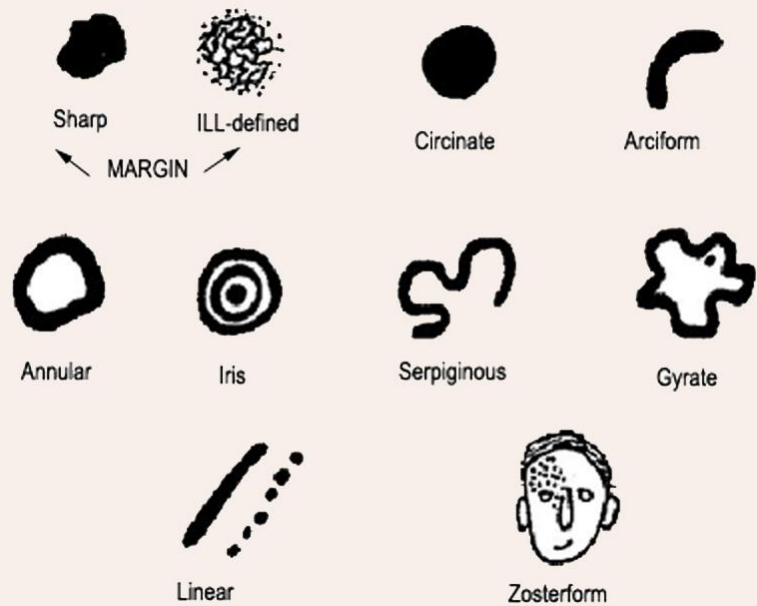
Inspection/Documentation of Lesions:

- Color
- Number of lesions (the actual number, or estimation)
- Location and distribution of lesions – be specific! (e.g., scalp, face and trunk are areas of high sebaceous gland concentration; on extremities, it makes a difference whether lesions are on extensor or flexor surfaces)
- Grouping or configuration of lesions (e.g., linear, annular)
- Size of lesions in centimeters
- Shape and borders (e.g., round, linear, oval, and geographic are shapes; borders can be well-defined, ill-defined, circumscribed, or irregular)
- Surface (e.g., flat or raised)
- Tenderness (or non-tender)
- Mobility (mobile – moves with the skin; non-mobile or fixed – skin moves over it)
- Special characteristics (e.g., pediculated (on a stalk), exudative. etc.)

Configuration

Refers to the shape or outline of lesions

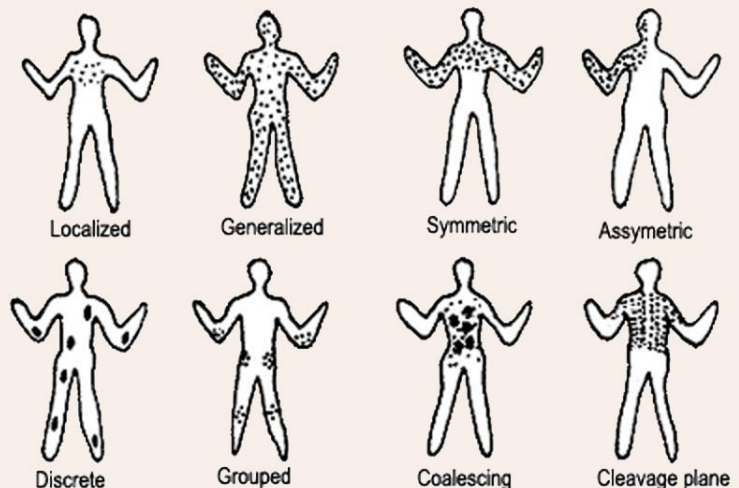
- Annular - round or circular with central clearing
- Circinate - round, circular > arciform: partial circle
- Iris or target - also known as target lesions and are a series of concentric rings. These have a dark or blistered center.
- Gyrate - connecting arcs
- Linear - straight
- Serpiginous – meandering; wander as though following the track of a snake.
- Margination – sharp, ill-defined?
- Satellite Lesions - commonly used to describe a portion of the rash of cutaneous candidiasis in which a beefy red plaque may be found surrounded by numerous, smaller red macules located adjacent to the body of the main lesions
- Zosteriform - dermatomal



Distribution

The clinical arrangement of skin lesions

- Localized - grouped into specific areas
- Generalized - dispersed all over
- Symmetric - no pattern
- Asymmetric - pattern lacking randomness
- Discrete - separate
- Grouped - clustered
- Confluent (coalescing) - smaller into larger
- Cleavage plane - arranged along lines of skin tension



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