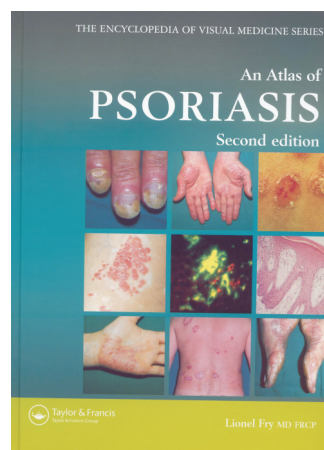


Lionel Fry. An Atlas of Psoriasis, 2nd Edition. London – New York: Taylor & Francis, 2004. Format: hard cover, one volume, 99 pages, 10 chapters. ISBN 1-84214-237-2

The second edition of the book *An Atlas of Psoriasis* by Lionel Fry, Professor Emeritus at Dermatology College in London, is in front of us. The Atlas brings excellent photographs of various clinical forms of psoriasis and different localizations of psoriatic lesions, accompanied by relevant textual description. In the brief introduction the author gives a short historical account of the field, emphasizing the role of Robert Willan who highlighted the clinical characteristics of the disorder at the beginning of the 19th century, and of Dr. Hebra, an Austrian dermatologist, who provided a definitive clinical description of the disease and separated it from leprosy in 1841.

The Atlas has ten chapters arranged in a seemingly unusual sequence. Thus, the first chapter is entitled *Epidemiology and Histology*, followed by the second chapter on the disease prognosis, and only then the chapter on the genetic aspect of the disease, which is rather short but contains recent data and is illustrated by a very convenient presentation of the MHC region on chromosome 6. The chapter on the etiology of psoriasis briefly describes Koebner phenomenon, and effects of infection, pharmaceuticals, stress and hypocalcemia on the disease development. The chapter on the pathogenesis of psoriasis contains latest data in the field and is enriched with distinct and highly useful illustrations in the form of graphic presentations and microphotographs. The sixth and seventh chapters provide thorough description of the clinical picture of psoriasis. All clinical forms of psoriasis and all localizations of psoriatic lesions are presented in 93 high quality photographs. The photographs of psoriatic lesions on the nails, scalp and face are highly illustrative indeed.

A separate chapter of the Atlas is dedicated to the differential diagnosis of psoriasis, pointing to difficulties encountered on differentiating some diseases, especially seborrheic dermatitis of the face and scalp.



The ninth chapter deals with psoriatic arthritis. The clinical characteristics of the disease, diagnosis and differential diagnosis are presented briefly but very conveniently.

The last, tenth chapter of the Atlas tackles the management of psoriasis, listing all modalities of topical and systemic therapy currently available. In the part on topical therapy, tacrolimus and pimecrolimus, calcineurin inhibitors, are also mentioned. As expected, the chapter on the treatment of psoriasis is closed by an account of biologicals, with basic data on all biologicals registered to date and pointing out that future development of agents for the management of psoriasis will definitely depend on new knowledge acquired in the psoriasis genetics and pathogenesis.

The list of references at the end of the book contains only 52 references, most of them published in the last decade.

By its concept, the *Atlas of Psoriasis*, published as part of *The Encyclopedia of Visual Medicine Series*, is a valuable handbook for all those interested and engaged in the management of psoriasis, and above all for junior dermatologists.

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