

**Braun-Falco O, Plewig G, Wolff HH, Burgdorf WHC, Landthaler M, editors.**

**Dermatologie und Venerologie, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Springer Medizin Verlag – Heidelberg; 2005.**

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This is the new, fifth edition of the classic dermatological textbook *Dermatologie und Venerologie*, edited by Braun-Falco and coworkers. This edition, printed in German, has been prepared by 103 renowned German and three Swiss dermatologists-venereologists. All chapters are written concisely, free from any redundancy. The chapters are accompanied by high quality tables and photographs. Therapy related chapter sections are conveniently highlighted. At the beginning of each part of the book, the chapters contained in this part are listed, while chapter number is printed in the upper right corner along with page number, thus greatly facilitating the search for particular data in the book. Each chapter is concluded by the list of recent literature.

The introductory chapter is dedicated to immunology and genetics, and is accompanied by excellent color schemes presenting the complex matter in a convenient way. The most relevant concepts are highlighted. The chapter on genetics brings special presentation of the methods of invasive prenatal diagnosis of skin diseases such as preimplantation diagnosis, amniocentesis, umbilical venous blood testing, and fetal skin biopsy.

The second part of the book addresses infectious skin diseases and contains chapters on viral and bacterial skin diseases, fungal skin diseases, sexually transmitted diseases, skin diseases caused by protozoa, and epizoonoses. These chapters are accompanied by a very concise survey of all therapeutic modalities with defined daily doses of particular agents as well as of local therapy options. A special chapter deals with gonorrheal urethritis, chlamydial infection, and other urethritides

due to causes other than gonorrhoea and *Chlamydia*. Syphilis is presented in a special chapter. In addition to clinical data, all data relevant for serologic test interpretation in particular stages of the disease, procedure for syphilitic infection in pregnancy, and therapy in particular stages of the disease are given in a convenient form. The chapter on HIV/AIDS describes clinical manifestations of HIV infection, along with most common dermatoses and neoplasms associated with HIV infection. Basic data on pigment alterations, aphthae and ulcerations, lipodystrophy, and drug reactions in HIV positive patients are presented.

The third part of the textbook deals with intolerance reactions, and describes urticaria and angioedema, toxic and allergic contact dermatitis, occupational allergic dermatoses, atopy and atopic eczema, various other dermatitides, pruritus and prurigo, drug hypersensitivity reactions, and severe drug induced skin reactions. The chapters on atopy and atopic eczema as a synonym for atopic dermatitis used in German school of dermatology have been written by Johannes Ring and Ulf Darsov. Definition issued by the European Academy of Allergology and Clinical Immunology (EAACI) is stated, according to which atopy is familial susceptibility to the production of IgE antibodies to low dose allergens with typical symptoms of asthma, rhinoconjunctivitis or atopic dermatitis/eczema. In description of atopic dermatitis, many synonyms used for this clinical entity are listed, i.e. atopic dermatitis, neurodermitis diffusa, neurodermitis constitutionalis sive atopica, prurigo Besnier, endogenous eczema and asthma-eczema. A comprehensive survey is given of the factors involved

in the etiopathogenesis of atopic dermatitis, e.g., genetic susceptibility, impaired production of IgE antibodies, changes in T cell regulation, vegetative regulation impairment, epidermal barrier impairment, and effect of psychosomatic factors on the development and course of the disease. The features of atopic eczema in particular age groups are described, with special reference to infancy and childhood.

The chapter on drug reactions reflects the wide variety of their clinical picture, ranging from maculopapular exanthema, bullous lesions, angioedema, serum diseases and fixed medicamentous exanthema through photosensitive and pigment alterations to embolism in the cutaneous vasculature. A special chapter describes severe drug induced skin reactions, i.e. toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and erythema multiforme maius (EM maius).

The fourth part of this valuable textbook of dermatology and venereology is dedicated to inflammatory diseases of the skin. Special chapters address erythematous, erythemosquamous and papular diseases, psoriasis, papular and lichenoid diseases, granulomatous diseases of the skin, and skin diseases characterized by eosinophilia. Most illustrations have been taken from the previous edition, whereas the text as a whole and therapy in particular has been resystematized and substantially extended. The chapter on psoriasis brings many new concepts on the etiopathogenesis of the disease as well as on new drugs including biologicals.

The fifth part of the book deals with skin diseases associated with environmental factors, and describes photodermatoses and diseases caused by physical and chemical action and those induced by ionizing radiation. The introductory chapter of the sixth part dedicated to bullous dermatoses and enriched with excellent color presentations has been written by Leena Bruckner-Tuderman, who is also the author of the chapter on hereditary epidermolyses, illustrated by very good photographs. The seventh part of the book deals with connective tissue diseases. Hereditary diseases of the connective tissue are described first, followed by skin atrophy with special reference to chronologic aging, skin diseases caused by elastic tissue impairment, group of perforating dermatoses, keloids, and hypertrophic cicatrices. Special chapters describe scleroderma and lupus erythematosus, dermatomyositis and other autoimmune diseases (mixed connective tissue disease, rheumatoid arthritis, Sjögren's syndrome, chronic ulcerating stomatitis).

The eighth part of this textbook is dedicated to developmental skin disorders and genodermatoses, keratinization disorders (ichthyoses, palmoplantar keratoses, erythrokeratoderma, follicular keratoses, porokeratoses, and dyskeratolytic, acantholytic dermatoses), and skin diseases as sequels of hereditary immune defects. The ninth part deals with vascular diseases (vasculitides, diseases of peripheral arteries, veins and lymph vessels, hemorrhagic diathesis). The tenth part is dedicated to pigment disorders, whereas acne, rosacea, hair and nail diseases, and sweat gland diseases are described in the eleventh part of the book, including the chapter on acne and rosacea written by Professor Gerd Plewig, one of the book editors. The twelfth part offers a survey of dermatoses according to localization, describing diseases of the lips and mouth, auricle, adipose tissue, and male and female genital organs. Special chapters deal with proctology, andrology, skin diseases in pregnancy, mental and neurological diseases with cutaneous manifestations, and specificities of the black skin. A special part of the book consisting of ten chapters is dedicated to diseases that occur due to deposition of various substances (e.g., mucinosis, amyloidosis, gammopathy, calcinosis, porphyria). The part of the book on tumors contains 19 chapters describing nevi, cysts, benign and malignant epithelial tumors, tumors of skin adnexa, melanoma, mesenchymal skin tumors, vascular tumors, lymphomas, pseudolymphomas and leukemias, histiocytosis and paraneoplastic dermatoses. A special chapter addresses dermatoscopy. The chapter on lymphomas brings the latest classification of nodal and extranodal lymphomas, issued by the World Health Organization in 2001 and 2004. The next chapters are dedicated to dermatological therapy (local and systemic, phototherapy, radiotherapy and dermatological surgery). Special chapters describe laser therapy and photodynamic therapy.

To conclude the presentation of the new edition of one of the most valuable textbooks in dermatology and venereology, young generations can be envied indeed for having a book of such a breadth and value available to learn dermatology and venereology, to acquire all the extensive material of our profession, while also offering an opportunity to learn German language, which has always been of high relevance in our, European horizons.

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