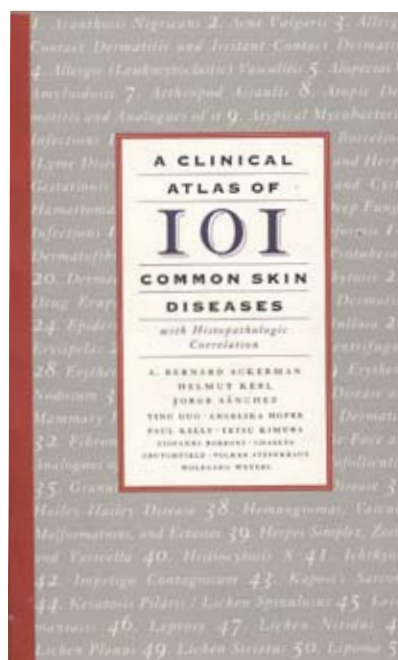


**Ackerman AB, Kerl H,
Sanchez J, editors.
A Clinical Atlas of 101
Common Skin Diseases.
Ardor Scribendi Ltd., New
York, 2000, 662 pages.**

Foreword to this valuable and quite originally designed book brings a number of reasons that have prompted the editors to write and illustrate it in the form of an atlas covering a hundred of common dermatologic diseases. The editors point to the high importance of pictures in clinical dermatology and remind us that Robert Willan was the first to use illustrations in his book entitled Description and Treatment of Cutaneous Diseases more than 200 years ago. Willan's approach with classifying skin diseases on the basis of variable appearance of particular skin lesions such as maculae, papules and pustules has been adopted as a basic method of dermatological diagnosis down to the present. However, the quality of photographs appearing in the atlases published in the last 30 years of the past century declined. The more so, the true character of skin lesions cannot be as reliably presented by photos as by a drawing. Yet, technological advances have recently enabled development of high-quality color photos. The atlases that include these high-quality photographs have become valuable textbooks in dermatology.

Although this atlas emphasizes the clinical aspect of common skin diseases, editors have attempted to correlate clinical and histopathologic features, and to explain the findings by gross pathology, i.e. clinical attributes, on the basis of findings obtained by conventional microscopy.



To use particular chapter most effectively, photographs are grouped consistently according to distribution, arrangement, configuration and morphological attributes of individual lesions. Each chapter begins with the definition of a particular disease, proceeding to morphological findings and ending with sections devoted to diagnostic tests, course, integration, unifying concept and therapy.

The book begins with extraordinary pictorial and textual description of morphea, followed by descriptions of particular diseases in alphabetical order. Each disease is presented by a brief description of its clinical picture, a photograph and histological picture.

This highly useful atlas presenting 101 most common skin diseases is a valuable contribution to our profession by its design, concise texts and excellent photographs. Praise is due to the editors for their having found a way to mention each and every contributor to this valuable publication.

Aida Pašić, MD, PhD