

Chapter 3:

Eczemas



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3.1 Allergic contact dermatitis and irritation dermatitis



Acute exudative contact dermatitis

Acute exudative allergic contact dermatitis of the flexor surfaces of the forearms and arms after repeated application of an antiseptic lotion. Allergic reaction to hexamidine. Countless small translucent vesicles on a background of congestive erythema, rupturing and exuding a clear serous liquid.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Vesicles

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Chronic occupational contact dermatitis

Slightly keratotic, cracked, and infected scaly erythematous lesions of the back of the fingers in a mason. Allergic reactions to chromium salts present in cements.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Keratoses; Scales; Fissures

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Vesicular contact dermatitis

Acute erythematous papulovesicular allergic contact dermatitis of the backs of the hands in a physiotherapist. Allergic reaction to the lanolin contained in a massage cream. The right hand is more severely affected than the left. ▶

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Vesicles

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Vesicular contact dermatitis

continued

The diffuse erythema, with an unsharp and fragmented margin, is covered with small translucent vesicles.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Vesicles

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Bullous contact dermatitis

Acute allergic contact dermatitis of the dorsal surface of the forefoot and toes. Allergic reaction to chromium salts used to tan shoe leather. ▶

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Vesicles; Bullae

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Bullous contact dermatitis

continued

Bullae are formed on an erythematous vesicular background.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Vesicles; Bullae

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Crusted eczema

Allergic contact dermatitis to the nickel in a jeans stud. At the point of contact there is a crusty greyish patch, partly eroded by excoriations caused by scratching.



Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Dermo-epidermal Papules; Vesicles; Crusts;
Excoriations (or Ulcerations)

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Crusted eczema

continued

At the edges an erythematous papulovesicular eczema extends to an unclear margin.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Dermo-epidermal Papules; Vesicles; Crusts;
Excoriations (or Ulcerations)

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Scaly dry erythematous contact dermatitis

Allergic contact dermatitis of the eyelids caused by the use of an antiwrinkle cream. Allergic reaction to Kathon CG®, the cream's preservative. Diffused demarcated and itchy erythematous patches of eczema with fine scales.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Scales

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Acute irritant dermatitis

Acute irritant dermatitis of the back of the hand and fingers, caused by contact with detergents. Diffuse itchy erythema. The margins of the erythema are distinct, corresponding to the zone of contact with the irritants.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Cumulative insult dermatitis or chronic irritant dermatitis

Chronic irritant dermatitis of the back of the hand and fingers caused by contact with detergents. Scaly keratotic and chapped erythema causing pruritus and pain.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Keratoses; Scales; Fissures

Causes: Chemical Agents



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Chronic palmar irritant dermatitis

Thick greyish or blackish keratotic patches, which are fissured and chapped. The clinical picture results from the combination of physical (friction, microtraumata) and chemical factors.

Basic Lesions: Keratoses; Fissures

Causes: Mechanical Factors; Chemical Agents



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3.2 Constitutional eczema or atopic dermatitis



Atopic dermatitis of the face in an infant

Bright red oedematous patches of eczema with weeping vesicles. The margins are poorly defined. The lesions predominate on the convex areas of the face: forehead, cheeks, chin.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Vesicles

Causes: None specific



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Infected retro-auricular dermatitis

Itchy exudative erythematous lesions of the retro-auricular groove, centred on a fissure at the base of the fold. Yellowish crusts are the sign of a microbial infection. These lesions, classical in childhood, can persist into adulthood.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Crusts; Fissures

Causes: None specific



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Atopic dermatitis of childhood

Very itchy exudative eczematous lesions of the eyelids and atopic angular cheilitis.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Fissures

Causes: None specific



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Atopic dermatitis of the folds in a child

Lichenified and very itchy patches in the knee flexures, transversed by scratch lines. In the present case similar lesions are present in other folds (e.g. of elbows, behind the ears, under the buttocks). The lesions can persist into adulthood.

Basic Lesions: Excoriations (or Ulcerations)

Causes: None specific



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Eczema of the nipples

Sign of atopic dermatitis in adulthood

Acute exudative eczematous lesions of the nipple, the areola, and the periareolar region. The lesion margins are indefinite, the pruritus intense, and the course chronic. This is a classical sign of atopy in adulthood.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Dermo-epidermal Papules; Vesicles

Causes: None specific



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Atopic cheilitis

Atopic cheilitis affects the upper and lower lips and extends over the perioral region. Dry eczematous lesions causing chronic desquamation.

Basic Lesions: Scales; Fissures

Causes: None specific



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Atopic dermatitis in the adult: xerosis, lichenification and prurigo

Very particular polymorphism of the lesions: skin dry and rough (xerosis), lichenified patches. There are also papules of various sizes, very strongly infiltrated, hard in consistency and often excoriated. These are prurigo papules (which used to be called "Besnier's prurigo").

Basic Lesions: Dermo-epidermal Papules;
Excoriations (or Ulcerations)

Causes: Mechanical Factors



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Atopic conjunctivitis

Atopic conjunctivitis associated with blepharitis. This inflammation of the conjunctiva is embarrassing, sometimes painful, and often distressingly chronic. It is not unusual in the atopic adult.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule

Causes: None specific



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Atopic dermatitis of the hands in the adult

Chronic scaly erythematous eczema of the back of the hands. One quite characteristic feature is the irregular distribution (patchy pattern) of the lesions. Some fingers are affected, whereas others are not. The back of the hands is irregularly affected. This "disordered" topography of the lesions is frequently found in atopic dermatitis.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Scales; Fissures

Causes: None specific



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Pityriasis alba

Rounded patch of dry scaly erythematous eczema on the cheek of a child. Spontaneous healing with a tendency to transient residual depigmentation, whence the name pityriasis alba. It occurs more frequently in atopic patients.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Achromic macules; Scales

Causes: None specific



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Juvenile plantar dermatosis

This condition, the site of which is generally the anterior third of the sole, always bilateral, and often symmetrical, is characterized by the triad of erythema, hyperkeratosis, and fissures. ▶

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Scales; Fissures

Causes: None specific



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Juvenile plantar dermatosis

continued

The skin often has a shiny collodion-like appearance. It often becomes worse in winter and is perhaps more common in atopic patients ("atopic winter feet").

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Scales; Fissures

Causes: None specific



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3.3 Nummular dermatitis (discoid eczema)



Exudative variety

Round erythematous plaque (nummus = coin) covered with numerous weeping vesicles which develop into small crusts. ▶

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Vesicles; Crusts

Causes: None specific



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Nummular dermatitis (discoid eczema)

continued

Dry variety of nummular dermatitis

Several round or oval erythematous plaques, well demarcated and isolated from each other. Their diameter varies from one to several centimetres and they are covered in fine dry scales.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Scales

Causes: None specific



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3.4 Gravitational eczema



Patches of itchy erythematous dry eczema, often accompanied by scratches. The lesions are sometimes situated along the course of varicose vessels.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Scales

Causes: None specific



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3.5 Seborrhoeic dermatitis



Seborrhoeic dermatitis of the trunk

Red circinate plaques in the presteral and/or interscapular region, covered in slightly itchy greasy scales. Very slight depigmentation occurs in the centre of the lesion.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Achromic macules; Scales

Causes: None specific



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Seborrhoeic dermatitis of the hairline

On the scalp it is characterized by diffuse itchy erythema covered in greasy scales. The lesions sometimes spread to the forehead, as in the present case, where they form what is commonly known as the corona seborrhoica: erythematous patches dotted with steatoid scales, which, following the hairline, show scalloped and arched margins.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Scales

Causes: None specific



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Seborrhoeic dermatitis of the face

The scaly erythematous lesions are well demarcated and have characteristic sites: hairline, nasolabial folds, vertical mediofrontal fold, and the free edges of the lower eyelids.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Scales

Causes: None specific



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3.6 Pompholyx



Pompholyx of the fingers

The vesicles of pompholyx are arranged in groups on the lateral sides of the fingers. They are hard to the touch, encased in the epidermis, translucent, and classically compared to grains of sago or to cooked tapioca. They are accompanied by intense itching.

Basic Lesions: Vesicles

Causes: None specific



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Bullous pompholyx of the palms (cheiro-pompholyx)

The vesicles encased in the palmar epidermis coalesce to form true bullae, which are sometimes haemorrhagic.

Basic Lesions: Vesicles; Bullae

Causes: None specific



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Eczematous pompholyx of the palms

Eczematous pompholyx represents an association of pompholyx vesicles with scaly erythematous patches with diffuse margins. The itching is fierce and the course is characterized by successive, even subintract episodes.

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Vesicles; Scales

Causes: None specific



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3.7 Asteatotic eczema



(or winter eczema, eczéma craquelé, or erythema craquelé)

Dry eczema with imprecise margins reminiscent of crazy paving. The cracks in the "paving" correspond to fissures of variable depth, with pinpoint bleeding. The name "erythema craquelé" is nowadays preferred to "eczéma craquelé".

Basic Lesions: Erythematous Macule; Fissures

Causes: None specific



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