



Acute Inflammatory Dermatoses

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Plaque and scales

Plaque: Elevated flat-topped lesion, >5 mm (coalescence of papules).

Scales: outermost layer of the epidermis becomes dry & flaky & peels.

Plaque



Scale



Vesicle, bulla, blister

Fluid-filled raised lesion < 5 mm in diameter (vesicle) or > 5 mm in diameter (bulla). Blister is the common term for both lesions.

Vesicle



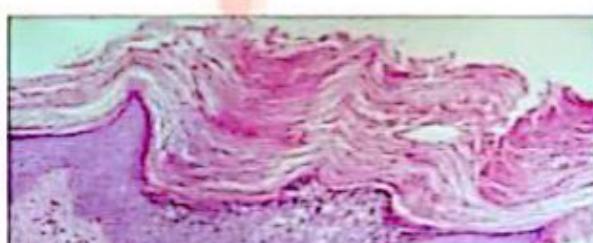
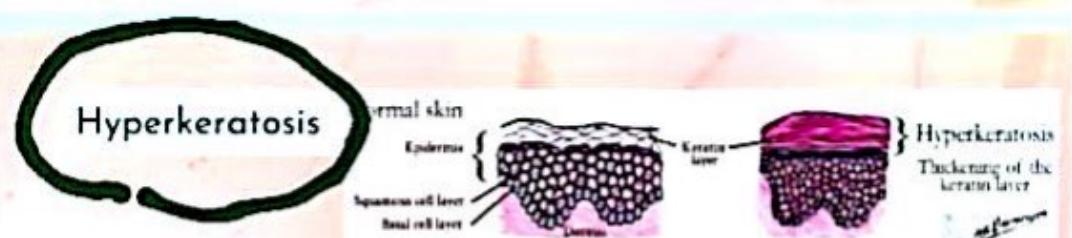
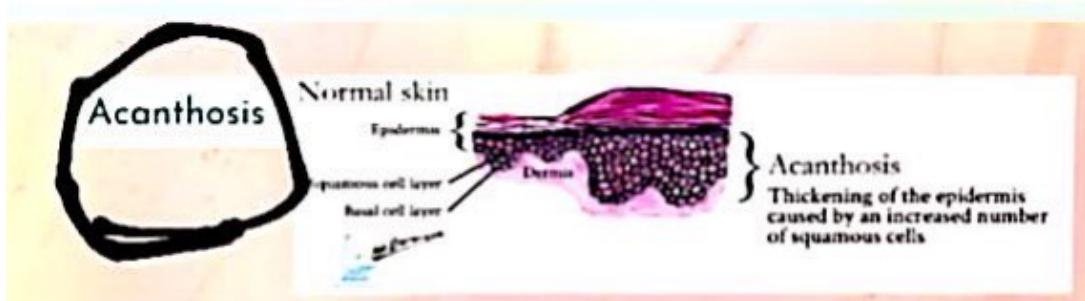
Bulla



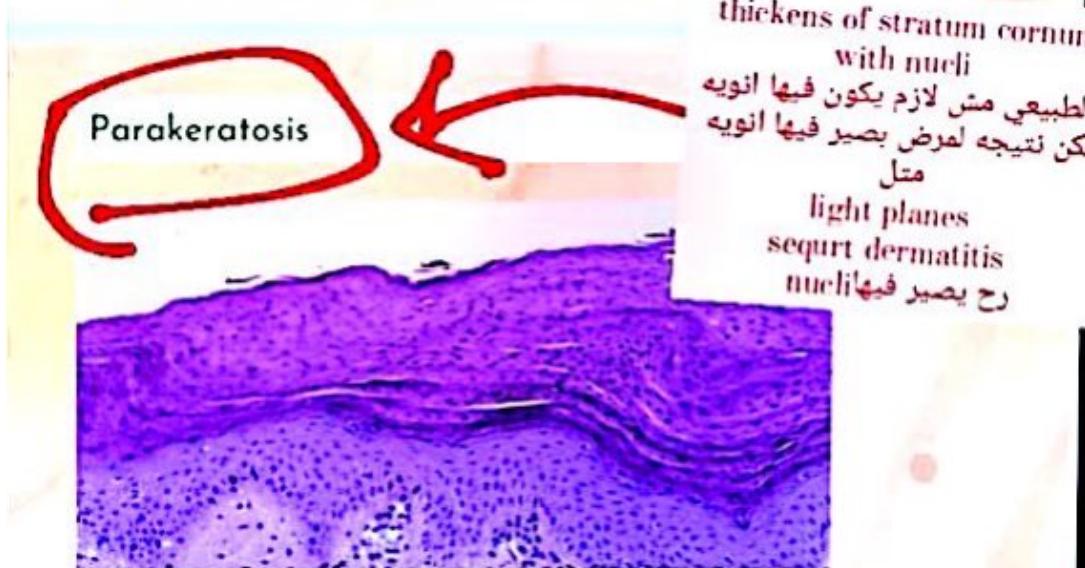
Acanthosis



Acanthosis
Thickening of the epidermis caused by an increased number of squamous cells



thickens of stratum cornum



Urticaria (hives)



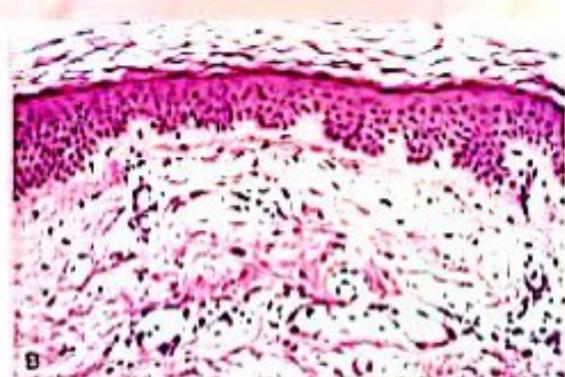
MORPHOLOGY: Gross

Lesions vary from small, pruritic papules to large edematous Plaques, termed wheals



MORPHOLOGY: Microscopic

- Features of urticaria often are subtle.
- A sparse superficial perivascular infiltrate of mononuclear cells
- Dermal edema causes splaying of collagen bundles, making them appear to be more widely spaced than normal.



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13

Eczema



14

Pathogenesis: type IV hypersensitivity

erythema
and pruritus



15

MORPHOLOGY: Gross

- Skin involvement in contact dermatitis is limited to sites of direct contact with the triggering agent
- Whereas in other forms of eczema, lesions may be widely distributed



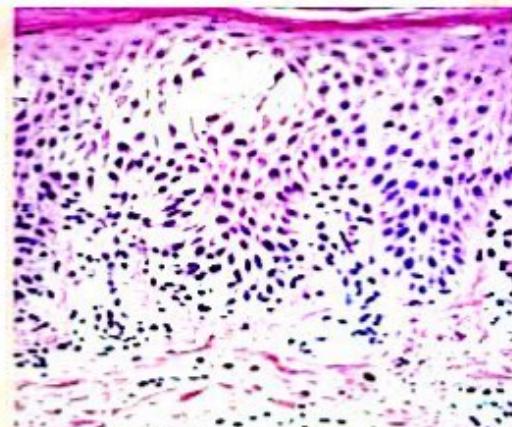
16



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MORPHOLOGY: Microscopic

- Spongiosis; epidermal edema, characterizes all forms of acute eczematous dermatitis (spongiotic dermatitis).
- Edema fluid seeps into the epidermis → splay apart keratinocytes. Intercellular bridges are stretched & become more prominent (easier to visualize).

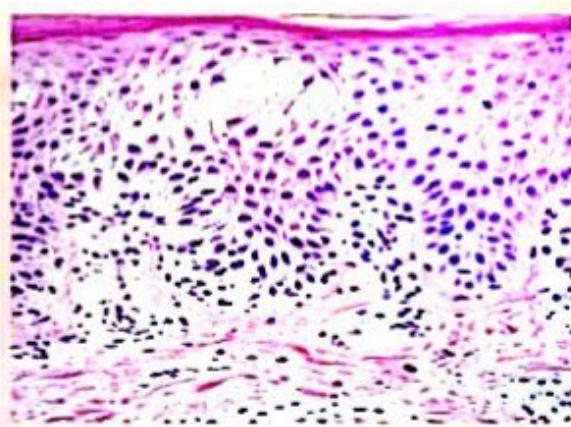


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MORPHOLOGY: Mi

- Superficial perivascular lymphocytic infiltrate, edema of dermal papillae, & mast cell degranulation.
- Eosinophils may be present (prominent in drug eruptions)
- Careful clinical correlation → Histologic features are similar



18

Clinical features

- Lesions are pruritic, edematous, oozing plaques, often containing vesicles and bullae.
- With persistent antigen exposure, lesions may become scaly (hyperkeratotic) as the epidermis thickens (acanthosis).
- Some changes are produced or exacerbated by scratching of the lesion.



19

03

Erythema Multiforme

20

MORPHOLOGY: Gross

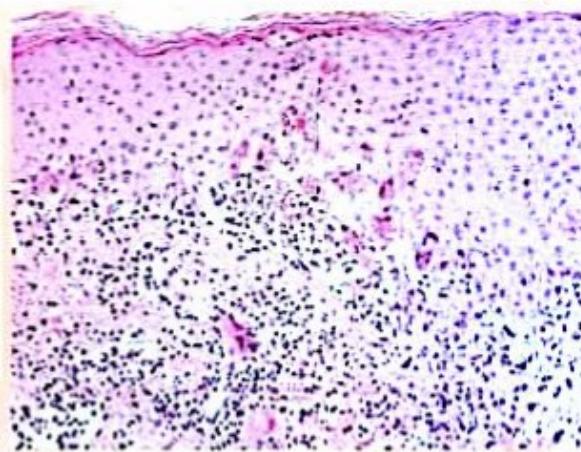
- Affected individuals present with a wide array of lesions, which may include macules, papules, vesicles, and bullae (hence the term *multiforme*).
- Well-developed lesions have a characteristic "targetoid" appearance



21

MORPHOLOGY: Microscopic

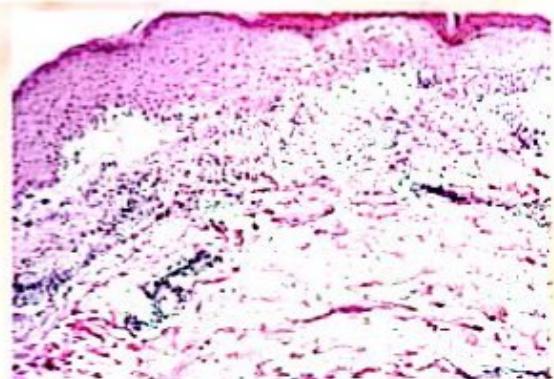
Early lesions show a superficial perivascular lymphocytic infiltrate associated with dermal edema & margination of lymphocytes along the dermoepidermal junction in intimate association with apoptotic keratinocytes



22

MORPHOLOGY: Microscopic

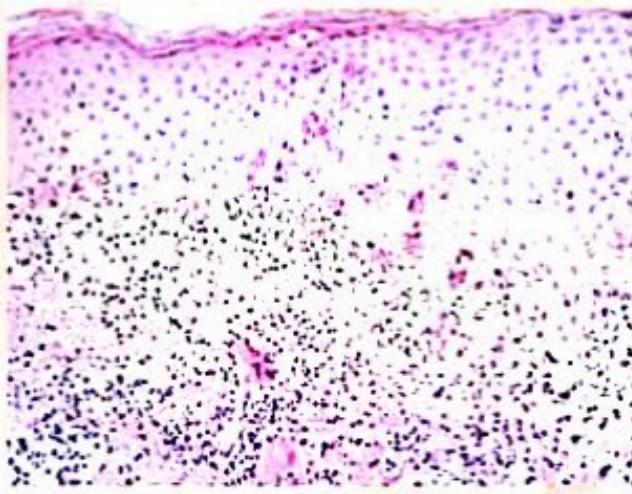
With time, discrete, confluent zones of basal epidermal necrosis appear, with concomitant blister formation



MORPHOLOGY: Microscopic

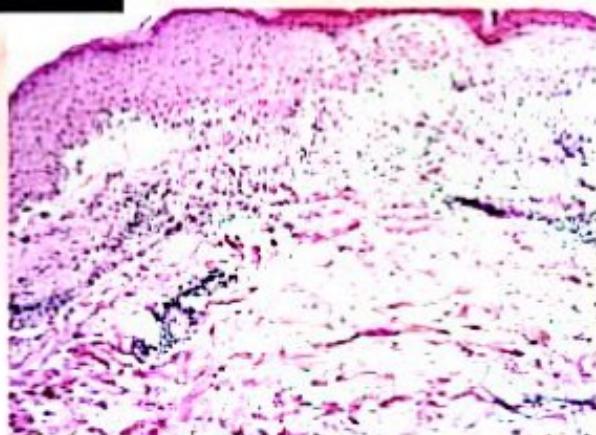
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22

**erythema multiform**

With time, discrete, confluent zones of basal epidermal necrosis appear, with concomitant blister formation

23

**Clinical features**

- Erythema multiforme caused by medications may progress to more serious eruptions → Stevens-Johnson syndrome (toxic epidermal necrolysis)
- It is life-threatening → may cause sloughing of large portions of the epidermis → fluid loss & infections
- Complications (like burn-injured patients)

24

