

## Dermatology Secrets in Color, Second Edition

Edited by James E. Fitzpatrick, MD, and John L. Aeling, MD

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A Review by Sonal Bhatia, MD,  
New York, New York

Dermatology is a medical specialty that goes beyond the learning of the well-organized, erudite, and well-written texts that have been put forth for years. It requires visualization, and only a color textbook can provide the proper illustrations to guide clinicians in recognizing and treating the myriad skin problems encountered on a daily basis.

This new edition of *Dermatology Secrets* is highly superior to its previous counterpart. It now portrays clinical photographs **in color**. The authors have paid special attention to improving and increasing the numbers of clinical photographs collected from various contributing authors.

What is refreshing about this text is its interactive nature, which makes it not only easy to read but also fun and exciting. Its question-and-answer format stimulates the reader to think about the answer before reading it, therefore preventing the usual passive reading that goes on with normal written texts. This format also aids the reader in retaining more of the information.

This text is organized into 10 different sections, based on etiology. Each chapter contains numerous tables with classifications, differential diagnoses, clinical features of high-yield skin disorders, and relevant treatments. These tables are helpful for quick reference, especially when time is of the essence.

The first section of this book has 3 very important introductory chapters that serve as a reference for the ensuing chapters (Structure and Function of the Skin, Morphology of Primary and Secondary Skin Lesions, and Diagnostic Techniques); these topics are often not addressed in many dermatology books. The first chapter is useful for neophytes, nondermatologists, and medical students as a primer on the basic science of the skin. The second chapter introduces the language of dermatology, while the third focuses on diagnostic techniques not commonly used by primary care physicians but very much employed by dermatologists.

In this edition, there is a new chapter, Special Considerations in Black Skin, that addresses differences in black skin and presents common skin lesions in this population. It emphasizes that certain skin lesions are more common in black skin (eg, dermatosis papulosa nigra), whereas other conditions are normal (eg, nail pigmentation). The chapter shows that it is necessary to understand all different skin types to make appropriate diagnoses.

My favorite chapter, Cultural Dermatology, emphasizes the importance of recognizing that skin conditions must be evaluated in the realm of the patient's culture. For example, just because a Vietnamese child has ecchymoses on her back is not a reason to suspect child abuse. By considering the cultural relevance of coin rubbing as a traditional Vietnamese medical practice, the physician can understand these lesions and properly diagnose and treat the patient. This chapter presents various scenarios that help physicians treat patients from all cultures.

*Dermatology Secrets in Color*, second edition, is cleverly suited to be immediately useful to primary care practitioners, whose patients continuously present with skin problems not easily identifiable. It is estimated that primary care physicians encounter skin problems in 1 of 13 patients seen in the United States. Unfortunately, not every primary care physician has taken a dermatology rotation during his or her training. This book is also useful for beginners in dermatology and medical students to stimulate their interest in this fascinating medical specialty and help them answer questions on rounds, board examinations, and oral examinations.

To order this book, please contact Hanley & Belfus by telephone at 215-546-7293 or 800-962-1892 or visit the Web site at <http://www.hanleyandbelfus.com>.