

INTRODUCTION

The skin is a rather large organ comprising 16% of body weight. It contains several cell types and cell products. Three separate compartments are present and a disease may involve one or all. The topmost layer, the epidermis, is a very active metabolic area and disease involving this area is generally acute with oozing, weeping, and scaling. The dermis, which is quite large, gives support to the entire skin and body. Dermal diseases produce swelling, enlargement, and rigidity in the skin. A disease in the subcutaneous section of the skin, the third major portion, is usually nodular and edematous.

The 47th Annual McGuire Lecture Series entitled, Common Problems in Dermatology, presented for the first time lectures in the morning with case presentations in the afternoon to illustrate the problems discussed.

There is great emphasis today on the management of common dermatosis by the primary care physician. This is really not new since Osler himself described many skin clues to systemic diseases. The problems presented in this lecture series were those which usually are diagnosed and frequently treated by the first physician who sees the patient. We hope you enjoy this series of papers as much as we enjoyed the presentations.

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