

# Connective Tissue Disease Module Terms and Abbreviations

## Morphologic and Histologic Terms

- Annular - ring shaped lesion with clearing (normal skin) in the center
- Arcuate - half-moon shaped
- Bulla - fluid filled lesion, typically greater than 0.5-1.0 cm in diameter (i.e., a larger blister- see vesicle below)
- Calcinosis cutis - deposition of calcium salts in the dermis and subcutaneous tissue
- Gottron papule - pink, violet, or red colored papules over the joints of the hands and fingers [metacarpophalangeal (MCP), proximal interphalangeal (PIP), distal interphalangeal (DIP) joints]; pathognomonic for dermatomyositis
- Heliotrope sign - red-purple discoloration of the upper eyelids- may be accompanied by eyelid swelling. It is named for the purple heliotrope flower and can be seen in BOTH dermatomyositis and systemic lupus erythematosus
- Interface dermatitis - histologic term describing inflammation along the dermal-epidermal junction (the interface between the dermis and the epidermis). A common histologic finding in various connective tissue diseases
- Jacoud's arthropathy - chronic, deforming, non-erosive arthritis with ulnar deviation of the fingers with MCP joint subluxation
- Malar rash - erythema over the nose and cheeks, typically spares the nasolabial folds as it is a photosensitive rash
- Macule - flat, non-palpable, change in color of the skin, typically less than 1.0 cm in diameter
- Morbilliform - extensive number of small, flesh colored or pink-to-red macules and/or papules; lesions vary in size (1-3mm) and may coalesce into larger patches. This is the ONLY macular-papular rash.
- Panniculitis - inflammation of subcutaneous fat
- Papule - circumscribed, firm, raised skin lesion, less than 1.0 cm in diameter
- Papulosquamous - skin conditions that affect the epidermis and consist of plaques or papules with scale
- Patch - flat, non-palpable color change of the skin, typically greater than 1.0 cm in diameter
- Plaque - circumscribed, firm, plateau-like, raised skin lesion, greater than 1.0 cm in diameter
- Periungual / nail fold telangiectasia - small, dilated, and sometimes tortuous, blood vessels within the proximal nailfold (cuticle) of finger and/or toes
- Photosensitivity - heightened reaction to sunlight
- Poikiloderma - skin changes that include both hypopigmentation and hyperpigmentation as well as erythema and variable atrophy, with dilation of the fine blood vessels (telangiectasia)

- Psoriasiform - psoriasis-like; resembling psoriasis or a psoriatic lesion, may be used as a morphologic or histologic term
- Raynaud phenomenon - classic triphasic color changes of digits upon cold exposure
- Scale - visible peeling or flaking of outer skin layers due to an epidermal process
- Serositis - inflammation of serous membranes (membranes lining closed internal body cavities: the pleura, pericardium and peritoneum)
- Shawl sign - a characteristic photosensitivity reaction demonstrating poikiloderma across the upper back, shoulders, and posterior neck
- V-sign - a characteristic photosensitivity reaction demonstrating poikiloderma across the mid upper chest (v-neck distribution)
- Vasculitis - inflammation of blood vessels
- Vesicle - small fluid filled lesion, typically less than 0.5cm in diameter; (ie., a small blister - see bulla above)

## Abbreviations

- ACR - American College of Rheumatology
- ALT - alanine aminotransferase - found in liver and muscles
- ANA - antinuclear antibody
- AST - aspartate aminotransferase - found in liver and muscles
- CBC - complete blood count
- CK - creatine kinase
- CNS - central nervous system
- Cr - creatinine
- CT - computerized tomography
- CTD - connective tissue disease
- DAT - direct antiglobulin test
- DIF - direct immunofluorescence
- DIP - distal interphalangeal joints of the hands
- DEJ - dermal-epidermal junction
- DfDx - differential diagnoses
- ESR - erythrocyte sedimentation rate
- ESRD - end stage renal disease
- EULAR - European Alliance of Associations for Rheumatology
- GI - gastrointestinal
- H&E - hematoxylin and eosin- common histologic stains for biopsies
- HTN - hypertension
- LDH - lactate dehydrogenase
- MCP - metacarpophalangeal joints of the hands

- PIP - proximal interphalangeal joints of the hands
- PTT - partial thromboplastin time (measure of clotting)
- RBC - red blood cell
- SLE - systemic lupus erythematosus
- SSA - anti-SSA autoantibodies (stands for anti- Sjögren's-syndrome-related antigen A autoantibodies, also called anti-Ro)
- SSB - anti-SSB autoantibodies (anti- Sjögren's-syndrome-related antigen B autoantibodies, also called anti-La)
- dsDNA - anti double stranded DNA antibodies
- ANA - anti nuclear antibodies
- SSc - systemic sclerosis AKA scleroderma
- UA - urinalysis