

Ali Hendi  
Juan-Carlos Martinez

# Atlas of Skin Cancers

Practical Guide  
to Diagnosis  
and Treatment

 Springer

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Practical Guide to Diagnosis and Treatment

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*To my wife Azadeh for her relentless encouragement and faith in me, my parents, Ahmad and Afsar, for their continual support, and Drs. John Zitelli and David Brodland, for their mentorship.*

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## Preface

The incidence of skin cancer has risen drastically in recent years. This increase, combined with relatively limited access to specialists in dermatology, leads to many of these patients presenting to their primary care providers with suspicious skin lesions. Even with formal training in dermatology, distinguishing one scaly bump from another with certainty can be quite difficult. This atlas is intended for those providers who wish to sharpen their clinical acumen.

Our aim is to help the reader realize that each entity can have a variety of clinical presentations and should be distinguished, if possible, from a number of mimickers. To that end, we have organized the atlas into separate chapters dedicated to the most common cutaneous malignancies. We provide several examples of each entity and various images of common mimickers. For each entity, we discuss treatment options and provide high-quality clinical images detailing these treatments in a step-by-step fashion.

We must alert the reader that while we wish to provide a visual foundation for many providers, this atlas should not serve as a diagnostic tool; a biopsy is always indicated if the practitioner has any doubt as to the clinical diagnosis. Cutaneous malignancies can be very destructive and, in some cases, fatal if not managed properly. Diagnosis and proper treatment is paramount.

We hope that the readers of this atlas will come away from it better able to serve the needs of their patients.

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Jacksonville, FL, USA

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Juan-Carlos Martinez





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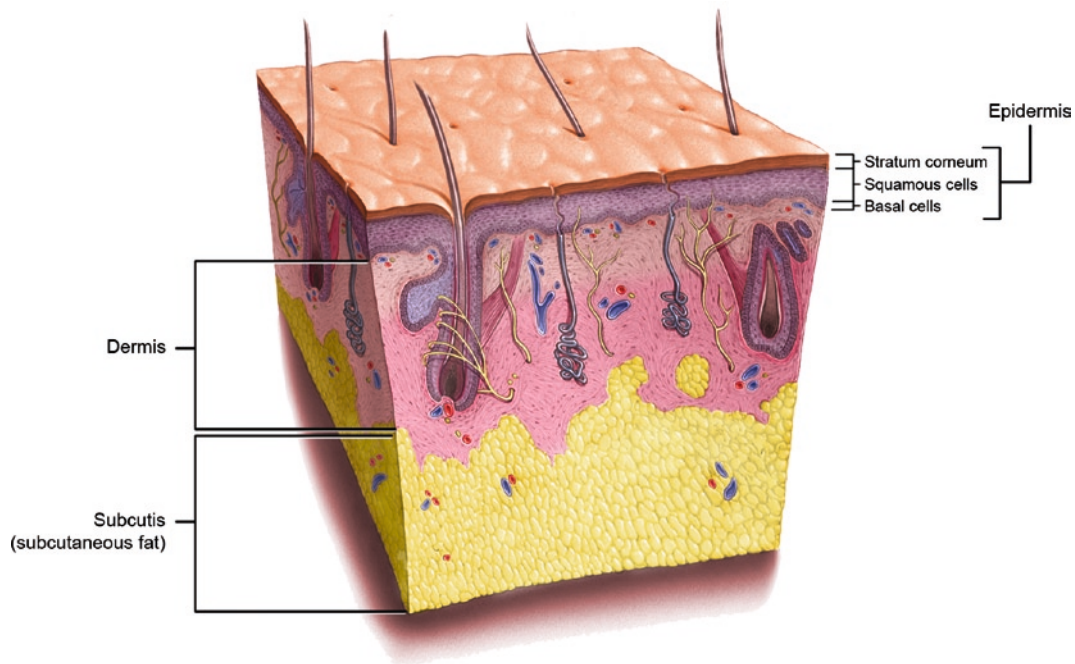
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The skin is the largest organ of the body. A basic understanding of the anatomy of the skin is needed for the proper diagnosis and management of skin cancers. The basic subunits of the skin include the epidermis, dermis, and subcutis (Fig. 1.1). The epidermis is the outermost layer of the skin. The innermost layer of the epidermis is the basal layer. The basal layer cells multiply to form the squamous layer of the epidermis. The outer layer of epidermis is the stratum corneum, which is composed of keratin. Melanocytes (pigment-producing cells) lie within the basal layer of the epidermis. The dermis

incorporates the adnexal structures (hair follicles, sebaceous glands, and sweat glands) and is made up of collagen, elastic tissue, and reticular fibers. The subcutis is made up of adipose tissue.

There are terms used in describing skin lesions that are unique to dermatology. This terminology is helpful in documenting lesions and in communicating with colleagues. The basic terminology and associated illustrations are explained in Figs. 1.2–1.7.



**Fig. 1.1**

Schematic detailing the multiple layers of the skin