

Diagnosis of Cutaneous Lymphoid Infiltrates

A Visual Approach
to Differential Diagnosis and
Knowledge Gaps

Antonio Subtil
Editor

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Preface

The diagnosis of cutaneous lymphoid infiltrates is one of the most challenging topics of pathology, in part because this area is at the interface of several medical disciplines (dermatopathology, hematopathology, dermatology, and hematology/oncology). As a pathologist trained in both dermatopathology and hematopathology, I have noticed several knowledge gaps by dermatopathologists as well as hematopathologists. In addition, after more than a decade practicing in a referral center for skin lymphomas and participating in a busy consult service, I have witnessed recurring mistakes in the classification of cutaneous lymphoproliferative disorders and pseudolymphomas, some of which with significant clinical impact.

Both dermatology and pathology rely heavily on a visual approach to learning, developing differential diagnoses, and making final diagnoses. Pattern recognition and image decoding skills are essential elements in this process. However, most textbooks do not emphasize images nor adequately use illustrations to demystify important concepts. This disconnect is particularly critical in complicated topics, such as the correct classification of cutaneous lymphomas and pseudolymphomas. The goal of this book is to fill in important knowledge gaps utilizing a visual approach to learning. Both common and rare lymphomas are reviewed. Diagnostic pearls and pitfalls as well as differential diagnoses are covered in detail. In addition to multiple images, several tables, illustrations, and visual clues to the diagnosis are included. In order to highlight what is actually useful to make a diagnosis in real practice, genetic data that is currently only relevant at a research level is included separately in an appendix.

Beyond its usefulness to general pathologists, dermatopathologists, and hematopathologists, this book is also intended to be helpful for dermatologists, hematologists/oncologists, dermatopathology fellows, hematopathology fellows, pathology residents, and dermatology residents.

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Part I

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