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# Dermatopathology

Clinicopathological  
Correlations

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*With contributions from:*  
Jerad M. Gardner • Talley Whang

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## Clinicopathological Correlations

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*For all my co-authors who did another amazing job with this book project.  
Also to Jerad and especially Talley for their late inning heroics in dragging  
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– Brian Hall

*For my husband, Joseph*

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– Martin Mihm

*To my former teacher and mentor, A. Bernard Ackerman.*

– Clay Cockerell



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## Preface

It is often stated that a picture says a thousand words. In the original planning of this book, it was our goal to include hundreds of pictures in addition to clinical and histologic descriptions so as to signify a book that is greater than the sum of its individual parts. With over 1,000 images, we feel that we have accomplished our goal in this first edition. Each entity that is covered contains not only high-yield clinical information, but also high-yield, simplified histologic features, ancillary studies as well as differential diagnoses for each entity. As with each significant scholarly undertaking, an immense amount of effort was put forth not only by the authors on the cover of this book, but also by several other people, but especially Talley Whang and Jerad Gardner. This book would not have been possible without their significant contributions in the late stages of this book.

A famous pathologist once stated, “If it isn’t in your differential diagnosis, you will miss it everytime.” In holding true to that adage, we have included not only very common entities, but some much rarer ones as well, so that the in training dermatologist or pathologist who has a strong interest in dermatopathology will hopefully be confident enough after mastering this book to be comfortable not only with the extremely common entities, but also the less common entities that tend to sneak across our scopes from time to time and sometimes catch us off guard.

It is our hope that this work of science combined with the natural art of cutaneous pathology will provide an extremely valuable resource not only to the budding pathologist or dermatologist studying for their mock exams, in service exams, general boards, or subspecialty boards, but also serve as a valuable resource to all general pathologists, general dermatologists, and dermatopathologists that sign out dermatopathology on a regular basis. We hope that the reading and studying of this book brings the same enjoyment that the consummation of this large effort brought to all of us that took part in creating it and that it may serve as a valuable tool to help all of us become better diagnosticians and better physicians for our patients.

Dallas, TX, USA

Brian J. Hall, MD



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## **Part I**

### **Inflammatory Dermatopathology**

# Interface (Lichenoid) Dermatoses

## Lichen Planus (LP)

**Clinical:** Commonly remembered as the “five P’s” – **purple, polygonal, planar, and pruritic papules** (and/or plaques) with a fine overlying scale containing thin white lines (known as **Wickham's striae**). LP commonly manifests as grouped papules on the distal extremities and/or trunk, also with frequent involvement of oral mucosa.

**Hypertrophic Lichen Planus** – Typical inflammatory pattern with marked acanthosis of the epidermis which may mimic prurigo nodule or keratoacanthoma.

**Lichen Planopilaris** – Arises on the scalp and causes a scarring alopecia (discussed more in detail in the alopecia chapter).

**Histopathology:** Compact orthokeratotic hyperkeratosis except for oral lesions which may have parakeratosis

(Fig. 1.1). Classically shows **wedge-shaped hypergranulosis** and irregular acanthosis of the epidermis (“**saw-toothed rete ridges**”). Underlying the epidermis is a **band-like lymphocytic infiltrate** which extends into the superficial epidermis causing **vacuolar interface change**. **Colloid or civatte bodies** can be found in the areas of liquefaction degeneration and sometimes in the superficial dermis. In more advanced lesions, the epidermis may become somewhat atrophic, and there may be a significant degree of pigment incontinence with dermal melanophages.

**Ancillary Studies:** Direct immunofluorescence studies may show positive IgM, complement, and fibrin in the **colloid bodies**.

**Differential Diagnosis:** benign lichenoid keratosis, lichenoid actinic keratosis, halo nevus, lichenoid drug eruption, lupus erythematosus, erythema multiforme.