

## Dermatology Terms

Abscess- accumulation of pus in the dermis or subcutaneous tissue

Annular- ring-shaped

Atrophy- depressed surface due to a thinned epidermis and/or dermis and/or subcutis

Bulla (blister)- a large, circumscribed, fluid-containing elevation (>5 mm)

Burrow- linear S-shaped elevated channel in the epidermis

Carbuncle- inflammatory nodules or abscess of numerous contiguous hair follicles

Comedo- plugged pilosebaceous follicle containing serum & keratin. closed = whitehead; open = blackhead

Crust (scab)- dried serum, pus, or blood (usually preceded by vesicle, bulla, or pustule)

Cyst- nodule containing fluid, cells or keratin

Ecchymosis- large, confluent area of purpura (“bruise”)

Erosion- partial loss of epidermis; heals without scarring.

Erythema- redness that blanches on pressure

Excoriation- shallow abrasion due to scratching; linear or pinpoint erosions or crusts.

Exudate- serum, blood, or pus accumulated on the skin surface

Fissure- linear split in epidermis &/or crack in (skin) dermis

Folliculitis- pustule involving a hair follicle

Furuncle- deep necrotizing type of folliculitis

Keratin/horn- rough, uneven surface due to accumulation of keratin; hard to pick off, unlike crust.

Lichenification- focal area of thickened skin with accentuation of skin lines due to rubbing/scratching

Linear- straight line

Livedo- criss-cross pattern

Macule- flat, circumscribed area of altered skin color <1 cm

Nodule- solid, round circumscribed elevation >5 mm

Papule- raised, solid lesion <5 mm

Patch- flat, pigmented lesion >5 mm

Petechia- small, nonblanching, red-brown macules

Plaque- a >5-mm, flat-topped raised lesion (diameter >thickness)

Purpura- visible collection of free red blood cells (red, purple, brown); nonblanchable

Pustule- a small papule containing pus

Reticulate- fine lace pattern

Scale- thick stratum corneum due to increased proliferation or cohesion of keratinocytes

Scar (cicatrix)- healed dermal (or deeper) lesion following trauma or inflammation

Sclerosis- skin induration/ hardening

Serpiginous- snakelike appearance

Stellate- star-shaped

Target lesions- three zones: dark or blistered center surrounded by a second pale zone and a third zone of a rim of erythema

Telangiectasia- small, dilated superficial blood vessels

Ulcer- loss of tissue affecting the entire epidermis and part of the dermis. Surface exudate &/or crusting often present; heals with scarring.

Umbilicated- round depression in center of papule

Vesicle- a small papule containing clear fluid

Warty/papillomatous- finger-like projections on the surface

Wheal (hive)- transient swelling due to dermal edema; pruritic

Whorled- swirling pattern