

Diane Jackson-Richards
Amit G. Pandya
Editors

Dermatology Atlas for Skin of Color

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 Springer

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In loving memory of my son, Paul Brandon Martin

–Diane Jackson-Richards

*To my wife Alma, my sons Anil and Alberto and my parents Girish and
Tanman for their love, support, and encouragement throughout my life*

–Amit G. Pandya

Foreword

America is not like a blanket – one piece of unbroken cloth. America is more like a quilt – many patches, many pieces, many colors, many sizes, all woven together by a common thread.

– Jesse Jackson

Our common thread in dermatology is the diversity of skin diseases. This diversity is influenced by the color of one's skin. Darker skin types constitute the majority of the global population. They are an integral part of the many pieces, sizes and colors of the global fabric of society. They include Hispanics, Latinos, Africans, African Americans, Caribbean, Native Americans, East Indians, Malaysians, Vietnamese, Indonesians, Koreans and Chinese. In America, mass migration and miscegenation has changed the face of the American canvas. By the year 2050, 50 % of Americans will be considered "people of color".

Multiple studies have documented morphologic and physiologic differences in darker skinned individuals as compared to Caucasians. Moreover, these differences can significantly influence the frequency and clinical manifestations of skin diseases. From a historical perspective, until recently, textbooks of dermatology did not focus on the often unique presentation of skin diseases in people of color. However, there has been a recent paradigm shift with new textbooks devoted exclusively to skin diseases in darker racial ethnic groups.

Accolades and congratulations to Drs. Diane Jackson-Richards and Amit G. Pandya for they have edited a very special and unique *Atlas for Skin of Color*. Their work is a magnificent display of clinical images and succinct discussions of skin diseases in this group of patients.

Atlas for Skin of Color will be an invaluable resource for Dermatologists, Internists, Family Physicians and any clinician interested in the unique clinical presentations and manifestations and treatment of skin diseases in darker racial ethnic groups.

Los Angeles, CA, USA

Pearl E. Grimes, MD

Preface

What is skin of color? The tent is large, encompassing many ethnic and racial groups, including Asians, Hispanics, Middle Easterners, Native Americans, Pacific Islanders, and those of African descent. Although these individuals characteristically have Fitzpatrick phototypes IV, V, and VI, the range of skin tones is infinite, producing a spectrum of colors throughout the world. In addition to skin tones, there is a wide range of hair textures, from thin, oily, and straight to extremely curly, dry, and thick. Populations with brown and black skin are increasing rapidly throughout the world. In the USA, this increase is occurring so rapidly that persons with skin of color will comprise the majority of the population by 2050. As this change occurs, there will be a need for more physicians and other healthcare providers to recognize the myriad presentations of skin diseases in patients with skin of color. It is for this purpose that we have produced this Atlas.

Many dermatologic conditions are seen more commonly in those with skin of color. In addition, skin disorders are often clinically different in this population. Furthermore, these patients have unique responses to treatment which must be understood before embarking on a therapeutic plan. The presence of melanin and the unique reactivity of melanocytes are central to these unique presentations and reactions. For example, dermatomyositis is usually apparent in affected patients, due to the characteristic violaceous erythema on the face and hands. However, this finding may be obscured by melanin in patients with skin of color, requiring clinicians to use other clues to make the diagnosis. Similarly, lasers are quite useful for the treatment of pigmentary disorders in light-skinned patients but can cause unacceptable hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation, or scarring in patients with skin of color. Certain disorders, such as skin cancers, are less common in patients with skin of color but may have serious consequences. These lesions can also be difficult to diagnose correctly or overlooked in pigmented skin due to their unusual appearance or unusual location.

Atlas for Skin of Color addresses these issues by providing over 400 images to help the reader understand the presentation of common skin disorders in pigmented patients. Each chapter includes a succinct discussion of the etiology, epidemiology, clinical presentation, and recommended treatment options for each disorder. It is our hope that this book will help physicians and other healthcare providers to improve their ability to recognize and treat skin diseases in patients with skin of color.

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Contents

Part I Pigmentary Disorders

1 Vitiligo	3
Sharif Currimbhoy and Amit G. Pandya	
2 Post-inflammatory Hypopigmentation	9
Shauna Goldman and Amit G. Pandya	
3 Pityriasis Alba	13
Meredith Orseth and Nnenna G. Agim	
4 Idiopathic Guttate Hypomelanosis	17
Katherine Omueti Ayoade and Amit G. Pandya	
5 Post-inflammatory Hyperpigmentation	21
Stephanie Alexandra Savory and Amit G. Pandya	
6 Melasma	27
Tiffany J. Lieu and Amit G. Pandya	
7 Ashy Dermatitis (Erythema Dyschromicum Perstans)	33
Alfred Wang and Amit G. Pandya	
8 Drug-Induced Pigmentary Changes	39
Lauren A. Baker and Amit G. Pandya	
9 Confluent and Reticulated Papillomatosis	45
Diane Jackson-Richards	
10 Dark Circles of the Eyes	49
Tara Rao	
11 Lentigines	55
Nan Guo and Amit G. Pandya	
12 Melanonychia Striata	61
Padma Nallamothe	

Part II Follicular Disorders

13 Acne Vulgaris	67
Diane Jackson-Richards	
14 Rosacea	73
Prescilia Isedeh and Diane Jackson-Richards	
15 Hidradenitis Suppurativa	77
Pranita V. Rambhatla	

16 Pseudofolliculitis Barbae	81
Richard H. Huggins	
17 Central Centrifugal Cicatricial Alopecia	85
Diane Jackson-Richards	
18 Folliculitis Decalvans and Dissecting Cellulitis	89
Diane Jackson-Richards	
19 Traction Alopecia	95
Diane Jackson-Richards	
Part III Papulosquamous and Eczematous Disorders	
20 Atopic Dermatitis	101
Diane Jackson-Richards	
21 Seborrheic Dermatitis	109
Diane Jackson-Richards	
22 Lichen Planus, Nitidus, and Striatus	115
Daniel Condie and Amit G. Pandya	
23 Pityriasis Rosea	123
Diane Jackson-Richards	
24 Pityriasis Lichenoides Chronica	127
Alfred Wang and Amit G. Pandya	
25 Psoriasis	131
Ryan Thorpe and Amit G. Pandya	
Part IV Granulomatous Diseases	
26 Sarcoidosis	141
Diane Jackson-Richards	
27 Granuloma Annulare	147
Bassel Mahmoud and Diane Jackson-Richards	
Part V Connective Tissue Diseases	
28 Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus	153
Daniel Grabell, Kathryn A. Bowman, and Benjamin F. Chong	
29 Dermatomyositis	161
Kathryn A. Bowman and Benjamin F. Chong	
30 Scleroderma and Morphea	167
Lauren A. Baker and Heidi T. Jacobe	
Part VI Infectious Diseases	
31 Bacterial Skin Infections	177
Katherine Omueti Ayoade and Arturo Ricardo Dominguez	
32 Tinea Corporis, Tinea Versicolor, and Candidiasis	189
Diane Jackson-Richards	
33 Tinea Capitis	195
Mio Nakamura and Raechele Cochran Gathers	

34 Human Papillomavirus (HPV)	201
Amanda Strickland and Gabriela Blanco	
35 Herpes Simplex and Varicella Zoster	209
Sharif Currimbhoy and Arturo Ricardo Dominguez	
36 Syphilis	215
Kathryn Kinser and Arturo Ricardo Dominguez	
37 Hansen's Disease	221
Amy Thorne and Jack B. Cohen	
38 Skin Signs of HIV Infection	229
Thao Duong and Arturo Ricardo Dominguez	

Part VII Neoplasms

39 Seborrhic Keratoses, Dermatitis Papulosa Nigra, and Dermatofibromas	243
Diane Jackson-Richards	
40 Keloids	249
Tiffany T. Mayo and Donald A. Glass II	
41 Acne Keloidalis Nuchae	255
Richard H. Huggins	
42 Basal Cell Carcinoma	259
Thao Duong and Divya Srivastava	
43 Squamous Cell Carcinoma	263
Ryan Thorpe and Divya Srivastava	
44 Dermatofibrosarcoma Protuberans	269
Nita Kohli and Divya Srivastava	
45 Melanoma	273
Sharif Currimbhoy and Divya Srivastava	
46 Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma	279
Sharif Currimbhoy and Amit G. Pandya	

Part VIII Photodermatitis

47 Polymorphous Light Eruption	287
Prescilia Isedeh and Henry W. Lim	
48 Chronic Actinic Dermatitis	291
Prescilia Isedeh and Henry W. Lim	
49 Actinic Prurigo	295
Prescilia Isedeh and Henry W. Lim	

Part IX Miscellaneous

50 Drug Eruptions	301
Thomas Lee and Arturo R. Dominguez	

Index	313
------------------------	-----

