

# SKIN LICHENOID REACTIONS

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# Lichenoid tissue reaction

- Noninflammatory
- Focal
- With telangiectasia, keratosis, or atrophy  
Poikiloderma
- With epidermal atrophy  
Dermatomyositis  
Lupus erythematosus

# Lichenoid tissue reaction

- Histology
- Basal Cell Degeneration
- Band-like Infiltrate Only
- Grenz Zone (sparing of dermis between the basal layer and the band like infiltrate)

With eosinophils

granuloma faciale

With naked tubercles

sarcoidosis

With histiocytes and foam cells

lepomatous leprosy

# Lichen planus

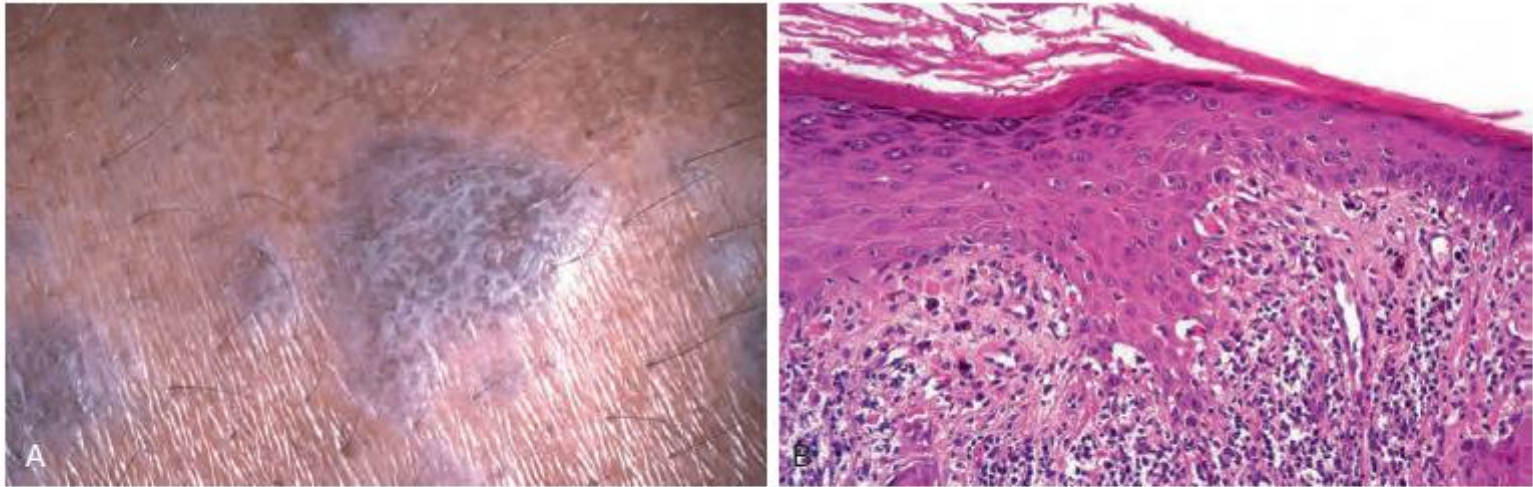


Source: Fauci AS, Kasper DL, Braunwald E, Hauser SL, Longo DL, Jameson JL, Loscalzo J: *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, 17th Edition: <http://www.accessmedicine.com>  
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Fig. e10-19 Accessed 07/16/2010

# Lichen planus

- 30-60 years-old
- More common in women
- Usually asymptomatic
- May be pruritic
- Mucosal ulcerations may be painful
- Characterized by pruritic, purple, polygonal, planar, papules, and plaques (“Six P’s”)
- White dots or lines on papule surfaces (Wickham striae)
- Usually on the wrists or legs.
- Lace-like lesions may be seen in oral mucosa.

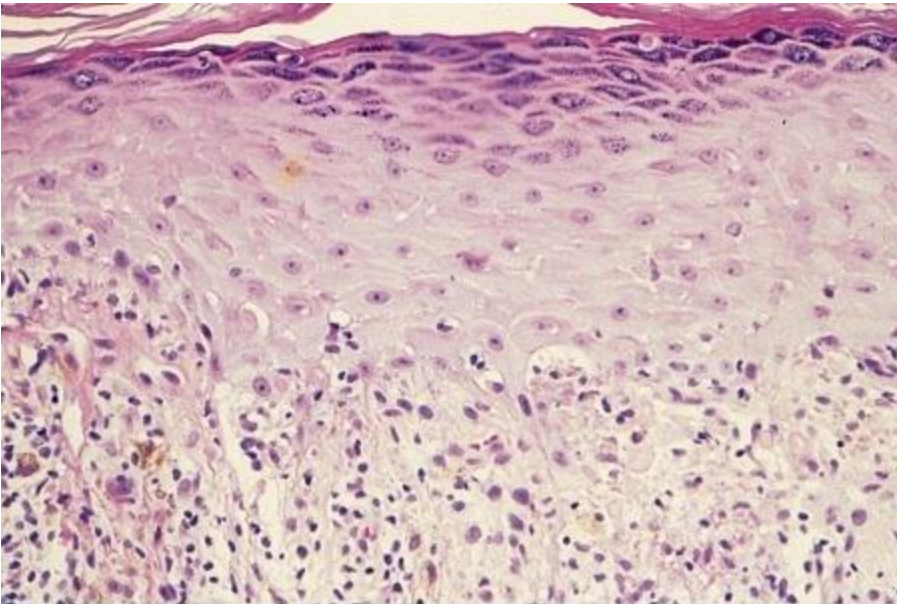


**Figure 25-26** Lichen planus. **A**, This flat-topped pink-purple, polygonal papule has a white lacelike pattern of lines that are referred to as Wickham striae. **B**, There is a bandlike infiltrate of lymphocytes at the dermoepidermal junction, hyperkeratosis, and pointed rete ridges (sawtoothing), the latter as a result of chronic basal cell layer injury.

# Lichen planus

- Histology
- Hyperkeratosis
- Diffuse basal cell degeneration
- Band-like infiltrate of lymphocytes in the dermis. (interface dermatitis).
- Epithelial claws are seen into dermis.
- Anucleate necrotic basal keratinocyte cells incorporated into inflamed papillary dermis. (Civatte or colloid bodies).
- Direct immunofluorescence reveals fibrin at the junction
- Generally self-limiting.

# Lichen planus



There is hyperkeratosis, wedge-shaped hypergranulosis, basal cell vacuolization, and a lymphocytic infiltrate at the dermal-epidermal junction. This infiltrate "hugs" the basal cell layer and is associated with many cytoplast bodies.

Source: Wolff K, Goldsmith LA, Katz SI, Gilchrest BA, Paller AS, Leffell DJ:  
*Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in General Medicine*, 7th Edition: <http://www.accessmedicine.com>  
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Fig. 6-12 Accessed 07/16/2010



# Oral lichen planus

- Hyperkeratosis.
- Diffuse basal cell degeneration.
- A band-like infiltrate of lymphocytes is present in submucosal tissues.
- Eosinophils suggest drug reaction.



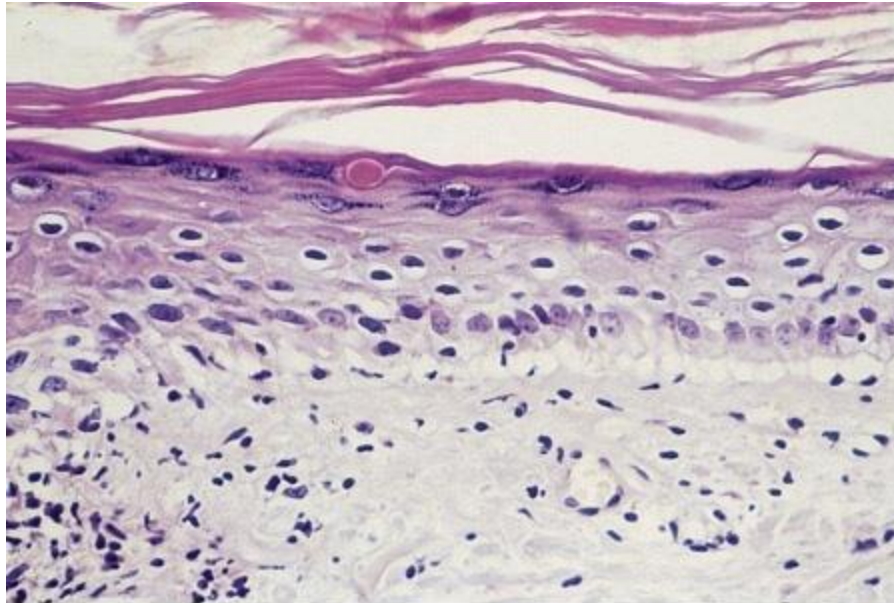
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# Lupus erythematosus

- Hallmarks of lupus erythematosus:
- Inflammation, edema, and a lymphocytic infiltrate in the papillary body and superficial venular plexus
- Also the deeper layers of the dermis
- The main target is the dermal-epidermal junction.
- Blister formation within lupus lesions occurs above the lamina densa
- Bullous eruptions may also occur in the dermis (anticollagen type VII autoantibody)
- Immune complexes are primarily found within and underneath the basal lamina.
- Linear fluorescence pattern.

# Lupus erythematosus



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Hyperkeratosis, thinned epidermis devoid of rete ridges, and vacuolization of the basement membrane zone are present.

# Chronic cutaneous (discoid) lupus erythematosus

- Violaceous, hyperpigmented, atrophic plaques
- Often with evidence of follicular plugging
- May result in scarring.
- Leave areas of depigmentation and white scars.
- If hair follicles destroyed, may lead to alopecia (“carpet tack”).
- May be verrucoid.
- Face, head, neck.
- Rare on palms or soles.
- Uncommon for patients with cutaneous lupus erythematosus to have systemic disease.

# Chronic cutaneous (discoid) lupus erythematosus



Source: Fauci AS, Kasper DL, Braunwald E, Hauser SL, Longo DL, Jameson JL, Loscalzo J: *Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine*, 17th Edition; <http://www.accessmedicine.com>

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Fig. e10-60 Accessed 07/16/2010

# Systemic lupus erythematosus

- Females 8:1 ratio
- Onset 30 years-old (females)
- Onset 40 years-old (males)
- More common in those of sub-Saharan origin
- 80% present with an erythematous, confluent, butterfly eruption over malar area
- 80% will have ulcers arise in necrotic papular lesions in palate and oropharynx
- May see discrete papular or urticarial lesions on face, arms, and dorsa of hands
- Hemorrhagic bullae during acute flares

# Systemic lupus erythematosus

- 50% will have lymphadenopathy
- 50% will have renal disease
- 30% will have hepatomegaly
- 30% will have myopathy
- 20% will have carditis
- 20% will have pneumonitis
- 15% with peripheral neuropathy
- 15% with seizures
- 10% present with psoriaform lesions
- Anti-double stranded DNA is positive (diagnostic)
- 5 year survival is 93%

# Systemic lupus erythematosus



Characteristic malar ("butterfly") rash.

Fig. e10-60 Accessed 07/16/2010