

Preface

Skin diseases are a very substantial part of any primary care practice. Unlike most internal conditions, dermatological lesions are apparent to the patient from their inception and the progression is usually readily evident. Accurate prompt diagnosis and appropriate treatment will alleviate a great deal of suffering and reinforce the patient's confidence in the practitioner's skills.

Dermatology Skills for Primary Care: An Illustrated Guide is designed to teach basic skills and to offer an inclusive approach to skin diseases so that primary practitioners can acquire the basic diagnostic and therapeutic skills used by their dermatologic colleagues. Part I reviews the basic skills and tools used in dermatologic diagnosis and also discusses basic principles of topical therapy. The ensuing five parts put these skills into practical scenarios and cover the treatment of specific skin conditions that are frequently encountered in everyday general medicine.

Although *Dermatology Skills for Primary Care: An Illustrated Guide* is not a comprehensive dermatologic reference, practitioners who master the skills in Part I and apply them to the 33 commonly encountered skin conditions in Parts II–VI should be able to practice very credible general dermatology.

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