

# Preface

Books on dermatology are either focused for medical students or for students of dermatology. A general practitioner sees a lot of skin patients; about 17% of their patients are related to skin disease. We therefore decided to write a book that should meet the needs of a general practitioner.

To make the book helpful for the primary care physician, we have focused more on common skin problems and have discussed the diagnosis and treatment of these disorders in depth to help the general practitioner in diagnosing and treating them. The chapter on the management of skin diseases also gives the details of topical, systemic, and the physical modalities used in treating skin disease. Uncommon skin diseases are only mentioned where required. The chapter on cutaneous manifestations of systemic diseases will help the general practitioner to correlate the cutaneous signs of the common medical problems seen by them. Emphasis is laid on the bacterial, fungal, and parasitic disorders that are prevalent in tropical countries. We have included the common diseases of other continents, as the general practitioner especially of developed countries has patients from all over the world.

Congenital and hereditary disorders are discussed with the corresponding chapters, which makes it easier for the reader to remember. A number of practical points are included with each subject, and history of dermatology is included where appropriate to make the subject interesting to read.

The general practitioner refers a number of cases to the dermatology clinic for dermatological procedures such as phototherapy, cryosurgery, and lasers. These procedures are

included in the appendix at the end of the book. This will help the practitioner to have a basic knowledge about the procedure to be performed on their patients.

Skin rashes are often an enigma for beginners; a little insight into the subject with a clear understanding can make the rash so simple to diagnose. We have tried to make this book simple, practical, and easy to use. We hope that general practitioners find it helpful; it could also be of interest and benefit to medical students.

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