
Preface

This book is not simply a collection of cases; it provides the distinctive feature of a strategic way of thinking and data analysis while discussing each case to reach a diagnosis. Every case is a unique story and the sequence of telling these stories is similar. However, it must be noted that no single template applies to all cases. Some cases present extremely rare diseases that are hardly reported once or twice in the literature. Others describe rare presentations of diseases that are not, themselves, uncommon. As such, this book offers extensive discussions of complex cases, surprising diagnoses, therapeutic challenges, and other exciting features.

A familiarity with such unusual cases will undoubtedly provide the dermatologist with increased knowledge, a wider perspective, and innovative techniques that can be used to solve diagnostic dilemmas. Readers will be able to make better selections from a list of puzzling probabilities.

I intentionally avoided writing the diagnosis as a title, as I wanted the readers to go through the journey of every case, starting with the clinical data, histological slides, and other available investigations. Data are collected and compiled in a few lines to make the bases of the final diagnosis. A brief discussion of each case follows and includes epidemiology, pathogenesis, clinical and histological features, differential diagnosis, definite diagnosis, prognosis, and management. The text allows for comparison of each case to similar cases, and notes distinguishing features of each condition under consideration. A brief summary of the management of each case is provided and a follow-up is described except where tracking was, unfortunately, lost for a few patients. Each case concludes with a message about the valuable lessons learned from the case. This book will take you down an extraordinary adventure with every case.

A wealth of diagnostic approaches and pearls of wisdom are provided and gleaned from over 35 years of clinical experience. Almost all patients are Egyptians from diverse geographical areas within Egypt and different socioeconomic classes.

This book not only adds new and rare diseases to a physician's general list of differential diagnoses, but also explains the best protocol for assimilating a patient's history, clinical findings, and lab results to reach key diagnoses and identify rarer diseases. Obviously, the longer the list of differential diagnoses in a dermatologist's repertoire, the less likely the physician will miss a serious or uncommon disease.

I always used to hear about "dreams coming true," and I was blessed to witness and enjoy many of my dreams coming true; however, never did I revel in those successes the way I have with this book. I truly hope you delight in this astounding and abundant journey.

Cairo, Egypt

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