

Preface

An estimated 40–50 million people in the United States suffer from acne, and up to 85 % of people experience acne at some point in their lives. Dermatologists, primary care doctors, and pediatricians see these patients every day in practice. It is important to treat the skin effectively not only to reduce the risk of physical scarring but also to address the negative psychosocial impact this disease carries. Improving the skin can improve self-confidence, interpersonal relationships, and performance in school or at work.

While the majority of acne patients seen in practice truly have run-of-the-mill acne, not all “acne” is really acne vulgaris. It may be exception rather than the rule for a patient to have a condition that mimics acne, but it is our responsibility as health care providers to be up to date and educated on acne’s broad differential diagnosis. If patients do not have any comedonal lesions, if they have an atypical medical history, or if they are not responding to traditional therapies, then alternative diagnoses should be considered. Proper diagnosis will allow us to prescribe proper treatments and ultimately improve clinical outcomes and patient satisfaction.

This book will help to provide a broad overview of acne vulgaris itself as well as conditions that manifest with acneiform eruptions in the skin.

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A Differential Diagnosis

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