

# Allergic Skin Diseases

# Eczema/Dermatitis

### **Definition:**

Eczema is an inflammatory skin reaction characterized histologically by spongiosis and clinically by itching, redness, scaling and papulovesicular eruption

### Presentations of Eczema

Acute Eczema:

Erythema, edema, oozing and papulovesicular eruption

Subacute Eczema:

Less erythema, edema, oozing with scaling and crusting

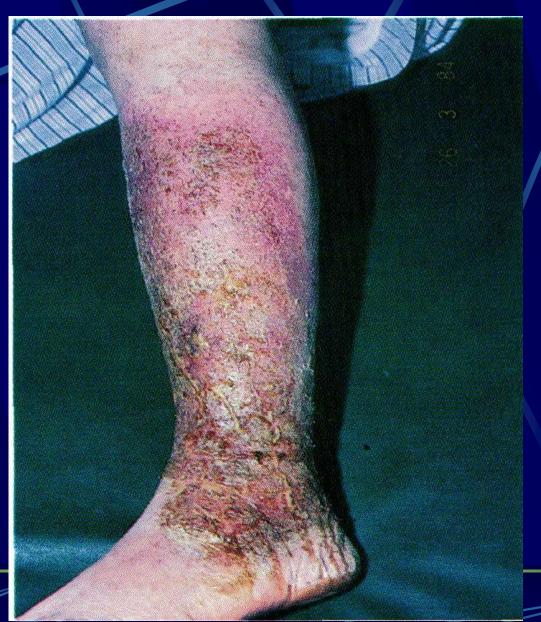
Chronic Eczema:

Thickening and lichenification

### Acute Eczema



## Acute Eczema



### **Chronic Eczema**



### Varieties of Eczema/ Dermatitis

- \* Contact dermatitis
- \* Atopic dermatitis
- \* Infective dermatitis
- \* Seborrhoeic dermatitis
- \* Discoid eczema
- \* Pompholyx
- \* Gravitational eczema
- \* Pityriasis alba

### **Contact dermatitis**

There are 2 types of Contact dermatitis: irritant and allergic Contact dermatitis

### A- Irritant Contact dermatitis

It is an inflammatory reaction in the skin resulting from exposure to a substance that causes an eruption in most people who come in contact with it if a sufficiently high concentration of the substance is used

No previous exposure to the substance is necessary

The effect is evident within minutes or a few hours



Alkalies
Weak acid
Detergents
Organic solvents
Topical medicaments

### **B-Allergic Contact dermatitis**

It is an acquired sensitivity to various substance that produce inflammatory reaction in only those who have been previously exposed to the allergen (sensitizer)

It results from cell- mediated immnuity

### Common allergens:

Elements e.g. chromium, nickel

Cosmetics e.g. perfumes

Rubbers e.g. clothes, shoes

Medicaments e.g. penicillin, sulphonamides, neomycin

Insecticides

Dyes

**Plants** 

Tar

### Clinical picture contact dermatitis:

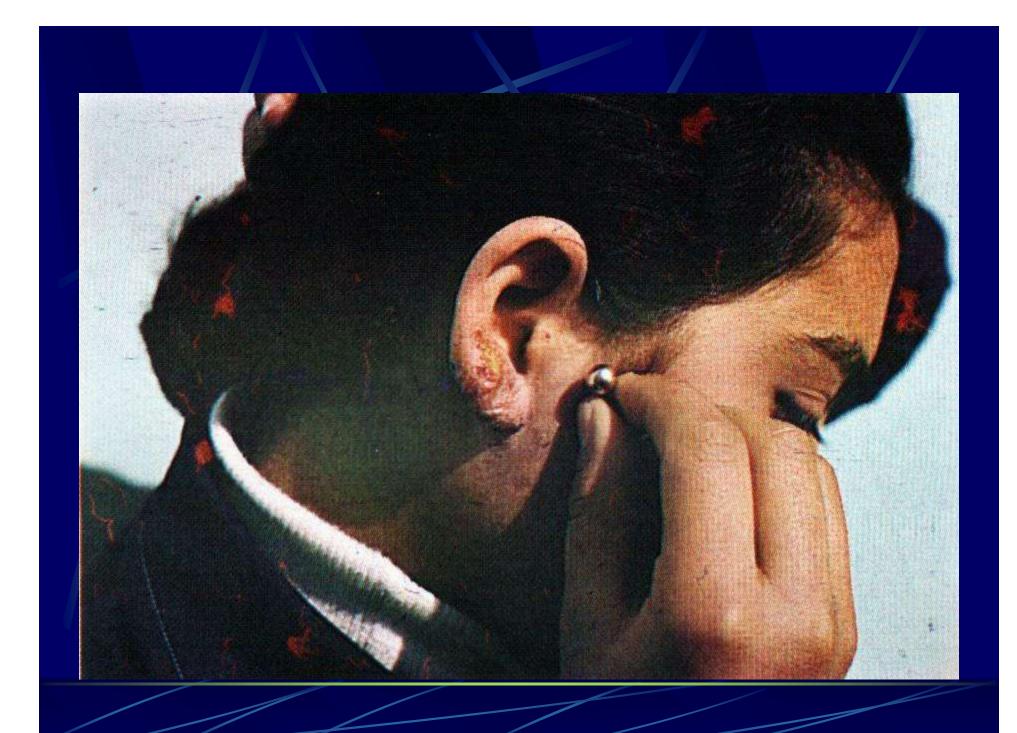
The primary signs in Contact dermatitis are erythema, edema and papulovesicles

### Persistence Contact dermatitis

It may be due to continued or repeated exposure to the allergen or irritant

It becomes dry, scaly and lichenification and fissuring may develop

The site and morphology of the lesion may point to the cause









### Diagnosis of Contact dermatitis:

- \* History
- \*Site and morphology of the lesion
- \* Patch testing in allergic Contact dermatitis

### Treatment of contact dermatitis:

\* Detection and avoidance of the cause

\* The sues of protective measures e.g. gloves

\* Treatment of the dermatitis

### Atopic dermatitis

### **Definition:**

It is an itchy, relapsing inflammatory skin condition, frequently associated with other atopic condition (asthma, hay fever, and atopic dermatitis) in the individual or other family members

### Clinical picture:

\* Infantile phase ( 2 months – 2 years)

\* Childhood phase (2-12 years)

\* Adult phase (12 years and more)









### Treatment of atopic dermatitis:

- \* Reduction of trigger factors as soap and detergents wool, some foods and stress
  - \* Bath oils and applications of emollients
  - \* Topical steroid
  - \* Systemic steroid

### Infective dermatitis

It is eczema which is caused by microorganisms or their products, and which clears when the organisms are eradicated

Often it develops about a discharging abscess, sinus, or ulcer as an area of erythema with microvesicles

### Treatment:

Treatment of infection in addition to treatment of eczema

### Seborrhoeic dermatitis

### **Definition:**

It is a chronic dermatitis, which has a red sharply marginated lesions covered with greasy scales and distributed in areas with a rich supply of sebaceous glands namely the scalp, face and upper trunk

### **Etiology:**

The yeast Malassezia furfur may have a role

### Clinical picture:

\* Dandruff:

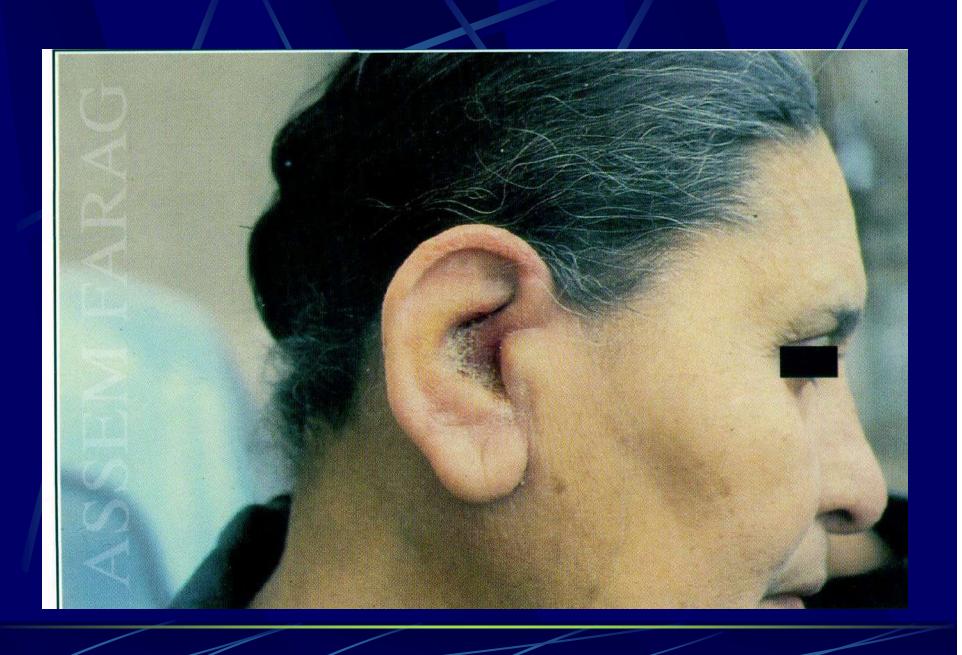
Visible desquamation from the scalp surface

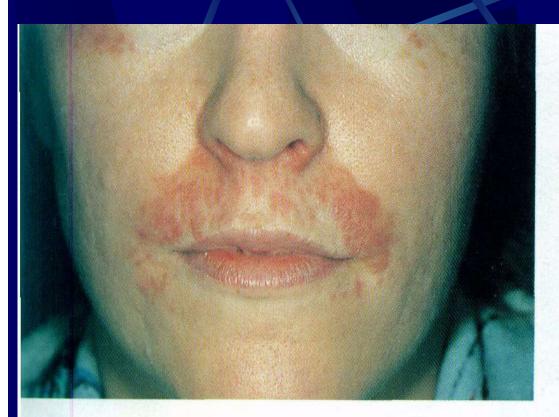
- \* Seborrhoeic dermatitis:
- Commonly originates in hairy skin ,and involves the scalp, face, presternal and interscapular regions and the flexures
- The lesions tend to be dull or yellow red in color and covered with greasy scales
- The lesions may be generalized, with erythema, scaling, oozing and pruritus and may progress to erythroderma

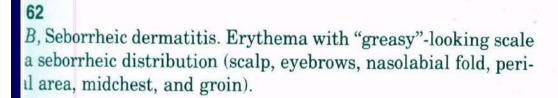
















## Treatment Seborrhoeic dermatitis:

\* Dandruff is usually treated by medicated shampoos as ketokonazole and selenium sulphide shampoos

\* Seborrhoeic dermatitis of glabrous skin is treated as eczema

## Discoid eczema

It is a coin- shaped plaque of closely set, thinwalled vesicles on an erythematous base

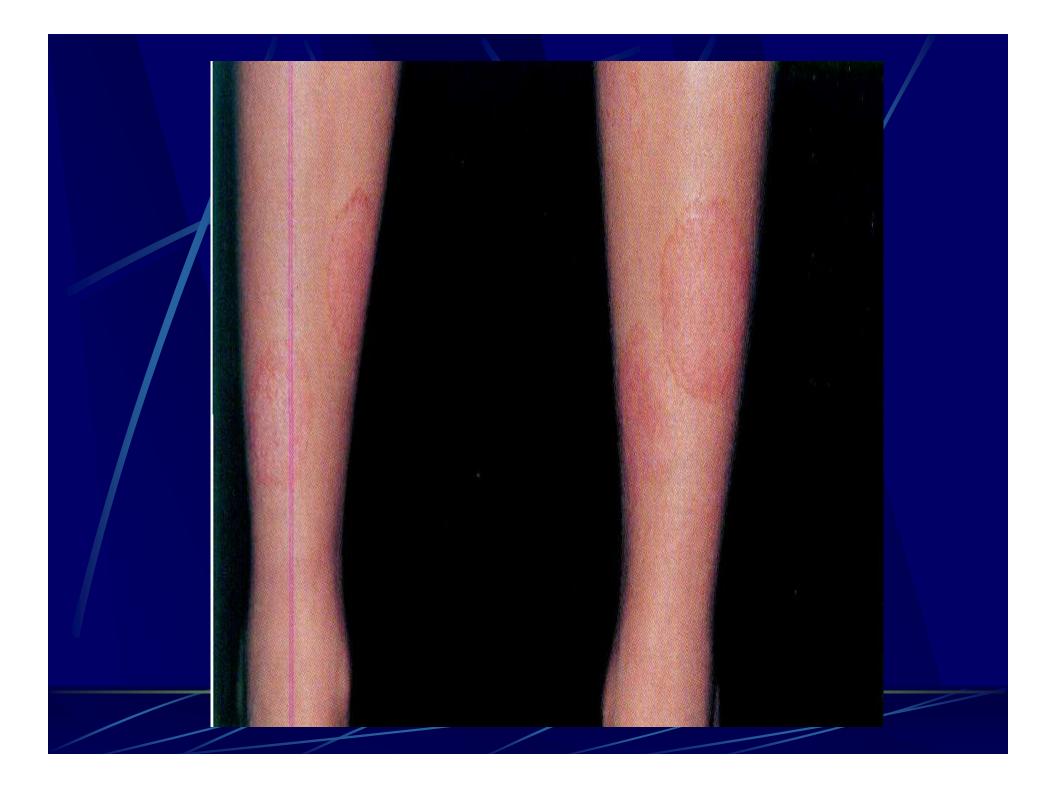
Itching is usually severe

Middle aged men are most frequently affected

It usually begins on the lower legs, dorsa of hands, or extensor surfaces of the arms







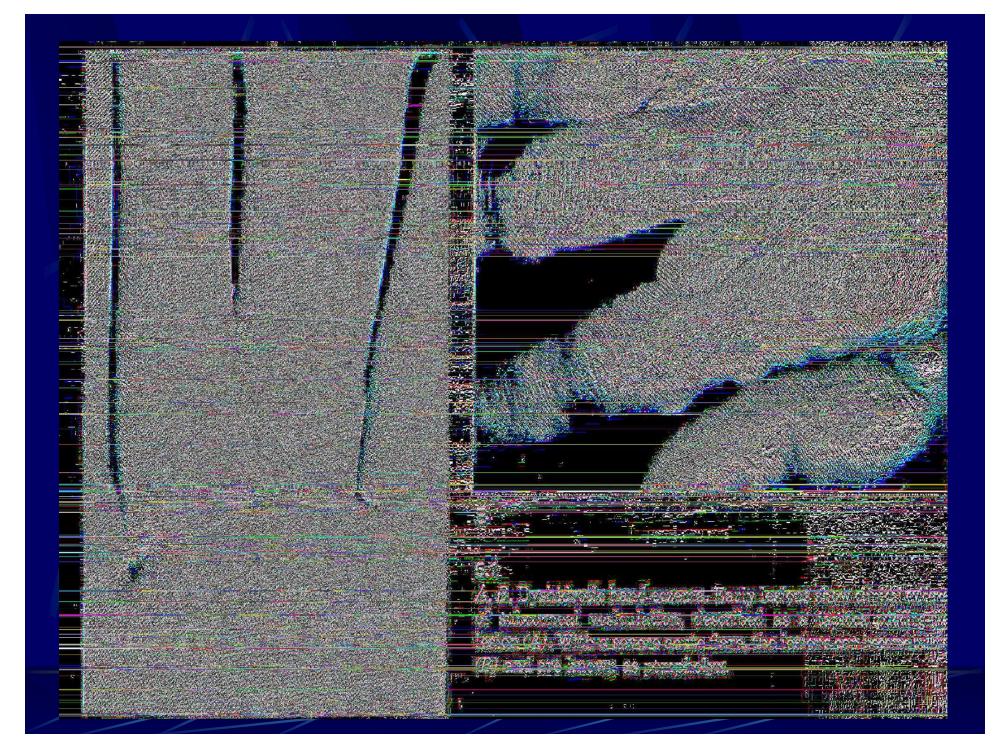
## Pompholyx

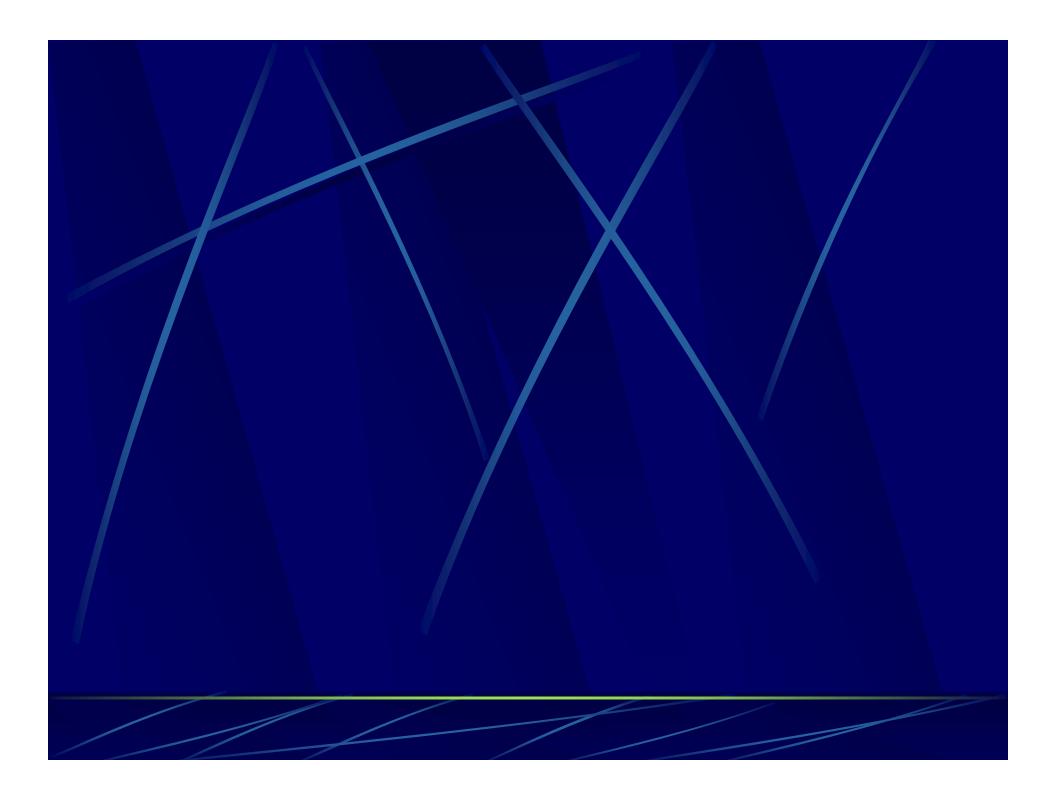
\* Sudden onset of crops of clear vesicles, which appear deeply seated on the palms and soles

\* Itching may be severe

\* The attack subsides spontaneously, and resolution with desquamation occurs in 2-3 weeks









## Gravitational eczema

\* It is commonly secondary to venous hypertension, usually occurs in the lower leg

\* It affects mainly middle- aged or elderly females

\* It usually accompanied by other manifestations of venous hypertension, including varicosity, edema, purpura, hemosiderosis and ulceration



