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Pocket Dictionary
Dermatology Defined



Editor-in-Chief
Sandipan Dhar

Associate Editors
Manjunath Shenoy M
Sahana Srihari
Sahana P Raju

3rd Edition

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SECTION

C

C chemokines Are small cytokines, or proteins secreted by cells, which have the ability to induce directed chemotaxis in nearby responsive cells and have only two cysteines; therefore, they act as both chemoattractant and as an adhesion molecules.

C nerve fibers Are found in the peripheral nerves of the somatic sensory system and unlike any other nerves, they are unmyelinated and thus, have slow conduction speed.

C1 esterase inhibitor deficiency Also known as hereditary angioedema is characterized by recurrent episodes of angioedema without urticaria and results due to excessive production of bradykinin.

C1q deficiency (82.18) Deficiency of complement component C1q is a rare genetic condition, predisposing to auto-immune conditions, most commonly SLE.

C6 peptide test in Lyme disease The C6 enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), based on a peptide (C6) that reproduces the sequence of invariable region 6 of VlsE, which is the antigenic variation protein of *Borrelia burgdorferi*. It has been known to be a sensitive and specific test for the serological diagnosis of Lyme disease.

C-reactive protein A protein appearing in blood in response to inflammatory process. It is produced by liver and fat cells, and is a member of the class of acute phase reactants.

Cadherins Type 1 transmembrane proteins that play crucial role in cell adhesion thus, ensuring that the cells are bound together within the tissues. They are dependent on the calcium ions for their functions.

Café-au-lait spots Also called as giraffe spots, are pigmented birthmarks that are light brown in color and usually not associated with any medical condition. However, if appearing in large numbers (3 or more),

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they may be associated with neurofibromatosis or McCune-Albright syndrome *(Figures C.1 and C.2)*.

Figure C.1: Café-au-lait spots



Figure C.2: Café-au-lait macules





Calabar swellings Painful, edematous, subcutaneous swelling characteristic of loiasis caused due to immune reaction to the toxin of injured parasite called Loa.

Calamine lotion A bland, soothing lotion containing zinc carbonate or zinc oxide (98%) with ferric oxide (2%) which has anti-pruritic properties.

Calcification The process in which the calcium builds up in tissue, causing its hardening.

Dystrophic Occurs while the blood level of calcium (systemic mineral balance) is not disturbed.

Metastatic Occurs while the blood level of calcium (systemic elevation) is high.

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Calcineurin A calmodulin dependent protein phosphatase that activates NFATc (Nuclear Factor of Activated T cell, cytoplasmic), a transcription factor by dephosphorylating it. Calcineurin is the target of a class of drugs called calcineurin inhibitors, which includes cyclosporin, pimecrolimus, and tacrolimus. Calcineurin inhibitors are used in conditions such as allergic contact dermatitis, atopic dermatitis, lupus erythematosus, etc.

Calcinosis Formation of calcium deposit in soft tissue

Circumscripta Localized deposition of calcium in subcutaneous tissues of skin, usually surrounded by granulation tissues.

Cutis A type of skin calcinosis, the most common source being dystrophic calcification (due to injury) *(Figure C.3)*.

Figure C.3: Calcinosis cutis







Tumoral A rare familial disease characterized by massive periarticular calcification which appears as typically lobulated, well-demarcated calcifications that are most often distributed along the extensor surfaces of the large joints.

Calciphylaxis A type of extra skeletal calcification, is a syn-

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drome of thrombosis, vascular calcification and cutaneous necrosis. It may also be seen in milk alkali syndrome, hyperparathyroidism, sarcoidosis, etc.

Calcipotriene Synthetic topical form of vitamin D that is involved in the growth and development of skin cells, used primarily for the treatment of plaque psoriasis.

Calcitonin A linear polypeptide hormone produced by parafollicular cells of the thyroid that acts to reduce blood calcium level, opposing the effects of parathyroid hormone. It plays an important role in calcium and phosphorus metabolism, mainly by inhibiting calcium absorption from intestine, and decreasing osteoclast activity and calcium and phosphorus reabsorption in kidney tubules.

Calcitonin gene related peptide (CGRP) A member of calcitonin family of peptides which plays a role in pathogenesis of wound healing and neurogenic inflammation.

Calcitriol A form of vitamin D3, produced by the cells of the proximal tubule of nephron, involved in increasing gastrointestinal calcium absorption, osteoclastic activity, and renal tubular absorption of calcium.

Calcium channel blockers A class of drug that disrupts the conduction of calcium channel, used primarily for the treatment of hypertension and certain cardiac conditions because it decreases the force of contraction of myocardium.

Calcium chloride therapy A therapy mainly indicated for the treatment of hypocalcemia requiring a prompt increase in blood calcium levels. Cutaneous calcinosis is one of the adverse effects of calcium chloride therapy.

Calcium pump The regulators of electrochemical gradient of calcium ions across the cell membrane. The plasma membrane Ca^{2+} ATPase (PMCA) and the sodium calcium exchanger (NCX) are together the main regulators of intracellular Ca^{2+} concentrations.

Callosity syndrome, hereditary painful An autosomal dominant inherited condition characterized by small areas of skin thickening on soles, and mixed striate and areata thickening, which may resemble corns on the soles of the feet.

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Callus formation The accumulation of dead skin cells that harden and thicken over an area of the foot. It is a defense mechanism to protect foot against excessive friction and/or pressure.

Calmodulin A calcium binding protein expressed in eukaryotic cells that mediates various processes such as inflammation, metabolism, muscle contraction, nerve growth, immune response, etc.

Calymmatobacterium granulomatis A granulomatous bacterial lesion of skin in humans occurring mainly in inguinal region caused by the species of the genus *Calymmatobacterium*.

Camellia sinensis *See* black tea.

CAMFAK syndrome A rare inherited disease characterized by congenital cataracts, microcephaly, failure to thrive, kyphoscoliosis, with central and peripheral nerves demyelination.

Camisa disease A honeycomb palmoplantar keratoderma with ichthyosis, is a rare variant of Vohwinkel syndrome.

Campbell de Morgan spots *See* angioma.

Cancrum oris Also called as noma or stomatitis gangrenosa, is a gangrenous condition that destroys the soft and hard tissue of the face and occurs almost exclusively in young children. Etiology is unclear though, it may be the sequelae of acute necrotizing gingivitis.

Candidemia The presence of candida species fungus in blood stream that infers systemic and invasive fungal infection.

Candidiasis Fungal infection caused by any of the candida species, most commonly *Candida albicans*. The infection ranges from superficial (like oral thrush and vaginitis) to systemic infection called candidemia, and occurs more commonly in immunocompromised patients. Candidiasis is a common cause of vaginal irritation (vaginitis) while other localized infections, include oral, pharyngeal, esophageal, urinary bladder, etc. Microscopic examination with KOH preparation is one of the diagnostic tools along with culturing the specimen. Clotrimazole, nystatin, fluconazole, and ketoconazole are the anti-fungals used for the treatment of local and/or systemic candidiasis *(Figures C.4–C.9 and Tables C.1 and C.2)*.

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Figure C.4: Candidiasis

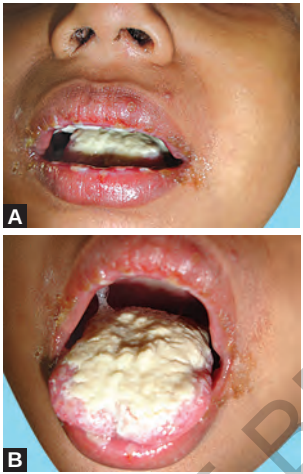

Figure C.5: Candidiasis-thrush



Figure C.6: interlabial candidiasis

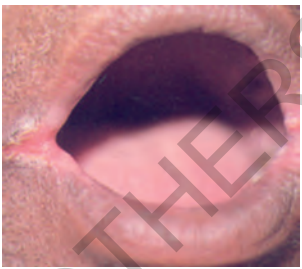

Figure C.7: Candidiasis-Balanoposthitis



Figure C.8: intertriginos candidiasis



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Candiru catfish A very small species of catfish that has the ability to cause urologic injuries, occurring most commonly in swimmers in Amazon river. Surgical extraction is often required as the fish can not swim backwards once they have entered the urethra through orifice.

Figure C.9: Generalized candidiasis



CANDLE syndrome Chronic Atypical Neutrophilic Dermatosis with Lipodystrophy and Elevated temperature. It is a rare, genetic autoinflammatory disease characterized by recurrent fever in infancy, multisystem inflammation and lipodystrophy.

Canities A technical term for the natural loss of hair's melanin

Table C.1: Candidiasis: Fluconazole dosage schedule

Indications	Dosage form (tablets)	Loading dose	Follow-up dose	Duration
Cutaneous candidiasis	Oral	–	150 mg/week	4 weeks
Oral/ oropharyngeal candidiasis	Oral	200 mg	100 mg a day	7–14 days
Vulvo-vaginal candidiasis	Oral	150 mg	–	Single dose
Systemic candidiasis	Oral	400 mg	200 mg a day for children of age 3–13 years, 3–6 mg/kg body weight	28 days

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Table C.2: Predisposing factors of candidiasis

Endocrinal disorders
- Diabetes mellitus
- Addison disease
- Hypothyroidism
- Cushing syndrome

Genetic disorders
- Chronic mucocutaneous candidiasis
- Acrodermatitis enteropathica
- Down syndrome

Immunological factors
- Human immunodeficiency virus infection
- Leukemia
- Lymphoma

Drugs
- Systemic antibiotics
- Systemic or inhalational corticosteroids
- Immunosuppressive drugs

Local factors
- Immature skin and low- birth weight (invasive and systemic candidiasis)
- Candidal vaginitis in mother (neonatal oral thrush)
- Premature labor in the presence of foreign body (congenital candidiasis)
- Moist warm conditions (intertrigo)
- Finger or thumb sucking (chronic paronychia)
- Lip licking, dental malocculusion, orthodontic prostheses (perleche)

pigment (graying of hair) *(Figure C.10)*.

Cannabinoids Are a group of terpenophenolic compound present in cannabis that binds to the cannabinoid receptors compoand are responsible for plant's unique pharmacological effects. Cannabinoid receptors are expressed by resources such as nerves, immune cells, keratinocytes, and hair follicles.

Cannabis Also known as marijuana or ganja, is a dry matured flowers and subtending leaves of female plants of *Cannabis sativa*. It is a psychoactive drug, used most often for recreational purposes, predominantly by young adults across the world. Medically, it helps with nausea, vomiting, anorexia, and weight loss. It is also being used in the treatment of spasticity, neurogenic pain, movement disorders, and glaucoma.

Cannon's disease *See* white sponge nevus.

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Figure C.10: Hairs in premature canities



Cantharidin A poisonous chemical compound secreted by many species of blister beetle, is a type of terpenoid that is medically used to remove warts, tattoo markings, and treating the small papules of molluscum contagiosum.

CAP syndrome A rare genetic syndrome depicting the triad of craniosynostosis, anal anomalies, and porokeratosis. It is postulated that dysregulation of various signaling pathways during embryogenesis is responsible for this condition.

Capillaritis, unilateral linear A rare variation of pigmented purpuric dermatosis characterized by linear or segmental pigmented distribution of purpuric macules predominantly located on the lower limbs.

Capillary leak syndrome Also known as Clarkson syndrome, is a rare condition where the size of the pores in the capillaries increases leading to the extravasation of fluid from blood to the interstitial fluid thus, causing hypotension, edema, and multiple organ failure due to hypoperfusion.

Capsaicin An irritant component of plants belonging to plants of genus *Capsicum*. Medically, it is used in topical ointments to relieve neuropathic pain, muscle pain, and arthritic pain.

Capsid, viral A protein shell of the virus consisting of oligomeric

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structural subunits called protomeres that are either helical or icosahedral shaped, and plays a crucial role in infecting bacteria (bacteriophage).

Caput medusae Distended and engorged paraumbilical veins seen radiating from umbilicus across abdomen, which is a sign of portal hypertension.

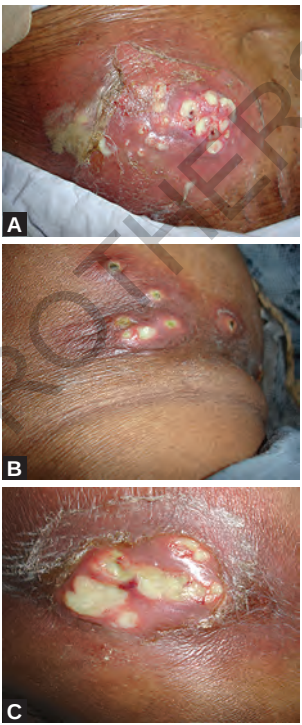
Caput succedaneum Swelling of the scalp (serosanginous, extraperiosteal fluid collection) of a new born caused by pressure of the presenting part of the fetus on dilating cervix.

Carate *See* Pinta.

Carboxypeptidase An enzyme that hydrolyzes the carboxyterminal end of a peptide bond and plays an important role in protein catabolism.

Carbuncles An abscess larger than a boil, most commonly caused by a *Staphylococcus aureus*, consists of several skin boils filled with pus *(Figure C.11)*.

Figure C.11: Carbuncle



Carcinogenesis The process of formation of cancer cells from normal cells, which is caused due to mutation of the genetic material of normal cells, thus, upsetting the normal stages of apoptosis and often rapid proliferation of cells leading to formation of tumors.

Carcinoid syndrome Group of symptoms secondary to carcinoid

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tumor. Carcinoid tumors are discreet, well circumscribed neuro-endocrine growths occurring anywhere along the gastrointestinal tract tract and lungs. They are characterized by flushing of the skin, abdominal cramps, secretory diarrhea, serotoninginduced firbrosis, and local mass effects.

CARD 14 gene Caspase Recruitment Domain- containing protein 14- a signalling molecule involved in adaptive and innate immune responses, mutations of which are responsible for pustular psoriasis and pityriasis rubra pilaris.

Cardiofaciocutaneous syndrome A rare genetic disorder characterized by distinct facial appearance, heart defects, and mental retardation. Heart defects usually involve congenital defects like atrial septal defect, pulmonary stenosis, and cardiomyopathy while skin involve brittle and curly hair, ichthyosis-like and hyper-keratotic lesions.

Carmustine *See* BCNU.

Carney complex An autosomal dominant condition characterized by lentigines and blue nevi on skin, endocrine overactivity leading to acromegaly and Cushing syndrome, and cardiac myxomas. Thyroid and testicular tumors can also be present while Cushing syndrome is caused due to primary pigmented nodular adrenocortical disease.

Carotene A photosynthetic pigment responsible for imparting orange color to the carrot and many other fruits and vegetables. The yellow colored fat of humans and other animals are due to storage of carotenes from their diet.

Carotenemia An excess of carotene that is, unlike vitamin A excess, nontoxic. It further leads to carotenoderma, which is yellowing discoloration of skin.

Carotenoderma An important clinical cutaneous manifestation of carotenemia characterized by yellowish discoloration of skin, sparing the conjunctiva.

Carpal tunnel syndrome A condition in which median nerve is compressed at the level of wrist leading to numbness, muscle weakness and abnormal sensations in the hand. It is sometimes associated with Raynaud phenomenon.

Carpet beetles Commonly called as skin beetles that belong

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to the family of Cleoptera. Cutaneous exposure to carpet beetle larvae can cause allergic papulovesicular dermatitis.

Carpet tack sign A horny plug at the undersurface of scale related to chronic cutaneous lupus erythematosus.

Cartilage-hair hypoplasia syndrome An autosomal recessive disorder, most commonly found in Amish and Finnish population, is characterized by sparse and hypopigmented hair, metaphyseal dysostosis, short limbed dwarfism, degenerated elastic tissue, chronic fungal or viral infections, and non-Hodgkin lymphoma and basal cell carcinoma.

***Carukia barnesi* jellyfish** A small jellyfish which when stings causes a severe backache or headache and shooting pain in the muscles, chest and abdomen. The sting is also associated with nausea and vomiting, which can sometimes lead to fatal pulmonary edema.

Carvajal syndrome A rare syndrome characterized by striate palmoplantar keratoderma, woolly hair, and left ventricular dilated cardiomyopathy. It can appear in both dominant and recessive forms.

Casal's necklace appearance in pellagra A cutaneous appearance of erythema, hyper-pigmentation, and scales around the neck in pellagra *(Figure C.12)*.

Figure C.12: Casal's necklace in pellagra



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Pocket Dictionary

Dermatology Defined

This dictionary serves as a valuable reference tool for individuals in dermatology.

Salient Features

- *Comprehensive terminology:* It encompasses a wide range of dermatological terms, covering diseases, treatments, and related medical jargon.
- *Accurate definitions:* It provides precise and clear definitions of terms, ensuring accuracy and clarity.
- *Illustrations and images:* It enhances comprehension by proving visual representations.
- *User-friendly format:* It is organized in an alphabetical order making it easy for users to locate and understand terms.
- *Multidisciplinary coverage:* It includes topics from dermatopathology, pediatric dermatology, dermatosurgery, dermato-oncology, etc.

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