



Derma Team 436

Cutaneous manifestations of SLE and other connective tissue diseases

Objectives :

- Not given

Done by: عبدالله الناصر، عبدالرحمن المالكي، عبدالكريم المهيدلي، محمد خوجه

Revised by: مؤيد اليوسف

Before you start.. [CHECK THE EDITING FILE](#)

Sources: notes + FITZPATRICK color atlas +435 team

[Color index: **Important** | [435 notes](#) | [doctor notes](#) | Extra]

(Connective Tissue Diseases)

- **Lupus Erythematosus**
 - Acute Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (ACLE)
 - Subacute Cutaneous Lupus Erythematosus (SCLE)
 - Discoid Lupus Erythematosus (DLE)
 - Lupus Erythematosus Tumidus
 - Lupus Panniculitis
 - Neonatal Lupus Erythematosus
- **Dermatomyositis**
- **Scleroderma(systemic sclerosis)**
- **Morphea & Lichen Sclerosus**
- **Other Rheumatologic Disease**
 - Still's disease
 - Relapsing Polychondritis
 - Sjogren's syndrome
 - Mixed connective tissue disease

We'll only mention the first 4. This is just to show you connective tissue diseases in dermatology.

1- Lupus Erythematosus (LE):

- A multisystem disorder that predominantly affects the skin. **If we have a patient with a non specific skin lesions we have to put lupus in the DDX.**
- Its course and organs involvement are **unpredictable (Great mimicker)**.
- It ranges from life threatening manifestations of SLE to the limited and exclusive skin involvement in chronic cutaneous lupus.
- A common classification of cutaneous LE: Specific vs non-specific.
 - **Specific:** Acute (ACLE), subacute (SCLE), chronic (DLE, tumid lupus, lupus panniculitis). The three major specific types are not mutually exclusive. In a given patient, more than one type may occur.
 - **Non-specific:** Raynaud's, Livedo Reticularis, Palmar Erythema, Periungual Telangiectasias, vasculitis, diffuse non scarring alopecia, ulcers.

Risk for systemic disease:

- Acute cutaneous LE (ACLE) 100%
- Subacute cutaneous LE (SCLE) 50%
- Chronic cutaneous LE (CCLE) (**DLE**) 10%
- **Epidemiology: (females more affected)**
- Incidence of CLE in Sweden and USA is 4/100,000.
- The female to male ratio is about 6:1 for ACLE and about 3:1 for both DLE and SCLE
- Almost 80% of systemic LE patients have skin involvement.
- DLE (CCLE) is common among **African Americans** and SCLE is common in Caucasians.
- DLE is the most common subset (80%).
- **SLE patients in Saudi Arabia**
- A study including 624 showed that 566 were females and 58 males with a mean age of 34.3 (range 8-71) years and mean age at disease onset of 25.3 years (range 0.08-67).
- **Discoid lupus erythematosus in a Saudi population**
- (THIS STUDY HAS BEEN DONE BY OUR KCUH DERMATOLOGY DEPARTMENT)
- Of the 56 DLE patients, females outnumbered males by 1.5:1. Mean age of onset was 36.5 ± 13.7 years and mean duration of the disease was 18.5 ± 24.6 **months**. Majority of patients (91.1%) had atrophic type. The **scalp** and **face** were the commonest sites of involvement.

◆ Pathogenesis Of CLE:

- Remains unclear
- CLE is multifactorial and polygenic.
- Complex interactions between **genetics, environment,** and cells.
- Ultraviolet radiation Play a role (**sun exposure**)

◆ Classification:

1. **Systemic form (SLE)** (**almost always associated with skin manifestations**)
2. **Cutaneous form (CLE)**.further divided base on histopathological findings
 - a. **Histopathologically specific CLE**:will be talked about in detail(**the dermo-epidermal junction is the site affected the most.**)
 - i. Acute cutaneous LE (ACLE)
 - ii. Subacute cutaneous LE (SCLE)
 - iii. Chronic cutaneous LE (CCLE) or (**DLE**, Tumid lupus, lupus panniculitis) (**most common**)
 - b. **Histopathologically non-specific LE-skin manifestations**
 - i. which are not exclusive to LE disease
 - ii. Raynaud's, livedo reticularis, palmar erythema, periungual telangiectasia, vasculitis, diffuse non scarring alopecia, ulcers.

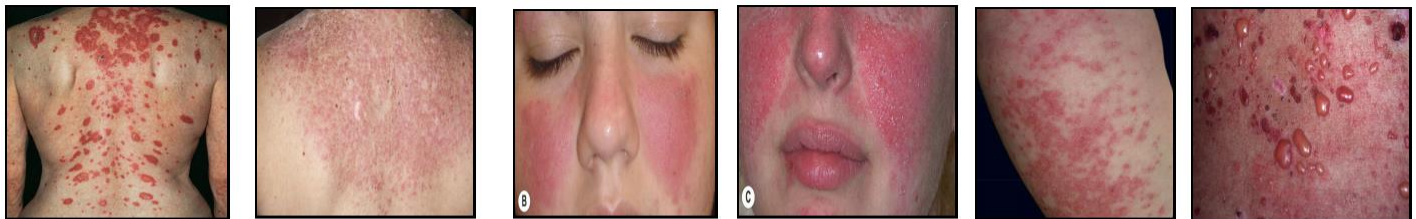
Note: SLE and CLE can occur simultaneously or separately

A- Acute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (ACLE):

- **These patients must be evaluated carefully for evidence of internal disease.**ACLE usually indicate systemic disease. **Always check for systemic involvement.**
- The lesions tend to be **transient**, follow **sun exposure**, and resolve **without scarring**.
- **Bilateral Malar erythema (Butterfly rash)**. **Sparing of the nasolabial folds** helps differentiate lupus from rosacea. (**malar is the best presentation for ACLE**).
- The morphology ranges from mild erythema (**hard to be noticed by the physician**) to intense edema.
- **Telangiectasias, erosions, dyspigmentation and epidermal atrophy** help distinguish the malar erythema from other facial rashes. **Could be scaly like picture c**.
- The duration may range from a few hours to several weeks.
- Sometimes may be more widespread in distribution. **Rarely involves areas other than the face.**
- **What I want you to know about ACLE is malar rash and it usually indicates systemic involvement.**

pic B: bilateral patch affecting both cheeks with fainting over the nose, with nasolabial fold sparing.

pic next to c picture : multiple erythematous papules. pic 6: clear fluid filled tense bullae, (tense indicates deeper involvement, superficial bullae are more fluctuant and less tense).



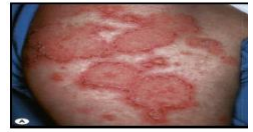
Toxic epidermal necrolysis-like eruption of acute lupus erythematosus. This presentation has also been referred to as a form of acute syndrome of apoptotic pan-epidermolysis (ASAP)

-If other parts of the body are involved (other than the face, e.g. back) it means that the disease is very aggressive

-Erythema multiforme-like skin lesions > Rowell's syndrome. Rowell syndrome is a rare disease consisting of erythema multiforme-like lesions associated with lupus erythematosus. The syndrome occurs mostly in middle-aged women.

B- Subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE):

- Typically, **Photosensitive**, lesions confined to sun-exposed skin.
- The **midfacial skin is usually spared** (difference between SCLE and ACLE), while the **sides of the face, upper trunk and extensor aspects of the upper extremities** are commonly involved.
- Can be mild, with only a few small scaly patches appearing after sun exposure.
- Lesions may have a **1) annular configuration** (first picture: variably sized multiple annular erythematous patches with enhanced scaly borders with coalescence and central clearing) or a **2) papulosquamous/Psoriasiform type (more likely to progress to systemic)** (second picture, Eczematous or psoriasiform appearance on the back (photosensitive area)) presentation. **BEST PRESENTATION (ANNULAR PATCH WITH SCALY BORDERS)**.
- Lesions often result in dyspigmentation (mainly hypopigmentation) but **do not scar**.
- The long-term prognosis of patients who have SCLE is not completely known.
- 10-15% of SCLE patients will over time develop internal disease, including nephritis.
- SCLE is associated with the **anti-Ro (SSA) autoantibody** and anti-la. (Approximately 70%)



Lesions are most commonly seen on the sun-exposed aspects of the upper extremities. The margins of the annular lesions may have scale-crust.



Numerous erythematous annular plaques on the back, some of which have associated white scale. Note the photodistribution.

Drug induced SCLE:

- SCLE lesions can appear after receiving certain medications including:
 - **Hydrochlorothiazide and terbinafine** antifungal (most common)
 - Calcium channel blockers
 - NSAIDs (naproxen)
 - Griseofulvin antifungal
 - Antihistamines
 - TNF- α inhibitors, antiepileptic, **minocycline** and proton-pump inhibitors.
- The lesions may or may not clear once the medication is discontinued

C- Chronic CLE:

1- Discoid lupus erythematosus (DLE):

One of the **most common** skin manifestations of Lupus.

- Most often involves the **face, scalp and ears**.
- 60-80% is **localized** form above the neck and 20-40% is **generalized** form.
- Unusual to present below the neck without lesions present above the neck.
- Have a chronic course, less chance of remission. More difficult to control
- No clear association between sun exposure and developing DLE lesions.
- DLE lesions have the **potential for scarring (chronic scarring)**. If left untreated.
- Active lesions tend to feel indurated on palpation.
- **Follicular plugging and scarring alopecia Irreversible hair loss.**
- **Dyspigmentation (Hypo in the central area and hyper at the periphery).**
- **Only 5-15% of DLE patients eventually develop clear-cut SLE.**
- The risk is higher in patients with widespread discoid lesions. **The more widespread lesions the higher is the chance of developing SLE.**
- Remember: Discoid lesions represent 1 of the 11 ARA criteria for SLE. (mentioned in page 11)
- Hypertrophic DLE is an unusual variant (Thick, scaly) mostly on the arms
- Scarring vs non scarring alopecia: look with a magnifying glass, Scarring: the dermis is affected and fibrosed and hair won't grow back (deep inflammation) seen in discoid lupus. if hair follicles are seen hair might grow back (non scarring).
(BEST PRESENTATION : DISCOID RASH WITH HAIRLOSS ,EAR INVOLVMENT).



DLE: Lesions, which favor the head and neck region, may show erythema, scaling, atrophy and dyspigmentation in addition to scarring (and alopecia). Less common sites include the palms. 1st pic on the right: Discoid lupus lesions with dyspigmentation and scarring alopecia. Hypopigmentation often develops centrally with hyperpigmentation at the periphery. Head picture description: well defined multiple coalescent depigmented linear patch . (top right picture).

2- lupus erythematosus tumidus (LET):

- Induration and erythema **without scaling and follicular plugging.**
- Photosensitivity > 70% (severe type).
- **Erythematous, edematous,** urticarial-like plaques usually over face
- The **epidermis is uninvolved** but has intense dermal inflammatory infiltrate.
- Appears on the face and trunk.
- **Negative serology,** does not lead to systemic disease.



multiple Annular pink-violet plaques on the chest and face forming arcuate configured plaques with no scaly borders .None of the lesions have epidermal change.

3- Lupus panniculitis (LEP) (lupus profundus):

- Rare presentation of CCLE
Involvement of deeper areas of the skin all the way down to the fat. (In panniculitis the subcutaneous tissue is most affected)
- Indurated plaques that can evolve into disfiguring, depressed areas.
- Occur on the face, upper arms, upper trunk, breasts, buttocks and thighs.
- Some patients have discoid lesions overlying the panniculitis (Lupus Profundus)
- **Very firm and indurated. Can have secondary changes.**
- Multiple **painful,** firm, subcutaneous nodules or plaques.



Pic : Erythematous plaque on the upper arm. The lesions may resolve with lipotrophy

4- Chilblain lupus:

- **Chilblains** are small, itchy swellings on the skin that occur as a reaction to cold temperatures.
Red or dusky purple papules and plaques on the toes, fingers, and sometimes the nose, elbows, knees and lower legs.
- The lesions are brought on or exacerbated by **cold. Appears after exposure to cold weather.**
- The lesions may represent the concurrence of ordinary chilblains with LE, although, with time, the lesions may develop a discoid lesion.



pic : Violaceous plaques, some with scale, on toes. If there is a family history of this disorder, the possibility of mutations in TREX1, which encodes a DNA exonuclease, can be considered.

Neonatal lupus: (NLE)

- May occur in infants whose mothers have **anti-Ro autoantibodies** anti-La/SSB antibodies and more rarely Ribonucleoprotein (RNP) antibodies.
- In babies who have NLE, the SCLE-like lesions are histologically identical to those of SCLE in adults.
- Transmission of antibodies over the placenta which can **cause congenital heart block** and cutaneous manifestations
- Resolve spontaneously as the titers of maternal antibodies degrade within the first 6 months
- **Almost 100% of babies with NLE have anti-Ro (SSA) antibodies.**
- Unlike SCLE in adults, lesions have a predilection for the face (**Periorbital region**).
- Photosensitivity is very common in NLE, but sun exposure is not required for lesions to form. (lesions can be present at birth).
- Lesions typically resolve **without scarring**, although dyspigmentation and residual telangiectasias may develop.
- The major extracutaneous findings are: **Congenital heart block**, **hepatobiliary disease** and **thrombocytopenia**.
- Heart block is almost always present at birth. Cardiomyopathy can occur in a small percentage of patients (neonatal period).
- Cardiac NLE has a mortality of 20% and two-thirds will require pacemakers.
- Hepatobiliary disease and thrombocytopenia, may present at birth or within the first few months of life.
- Hepatobiliary disease ranges from mild elevation of liver enzymes to liver failure.
- All NLE children should be evaluated for internal manifestations with a physical exam in addition to an ECG (**cardiac changes**), CBC (**thrombocytopenia**) and LFT (**liver involvement**).
- **Lesions look similar to SCLE (annular). > annular erythematous plaques**
- Cutaneous signs include a SCLE-like rash, erythematous, non-scarring annular plaques most typical occurrence in the face and especially periorbital (“raccoon or owl eye”)

third pic : multiple annular plaques with enhanced erythematous borders.

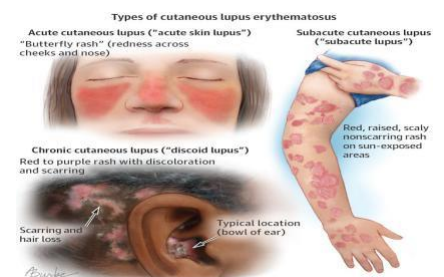


Drug induced lupus:

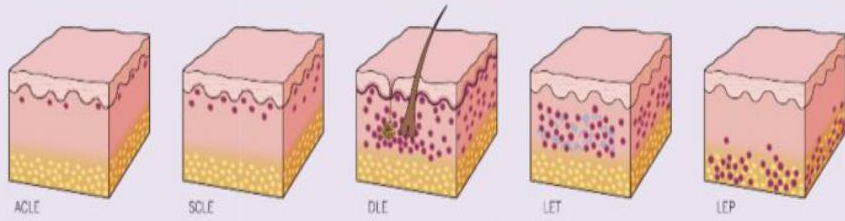
- Sex ratios are nearly equal.
- Nephritis and central nervous system features are not commonly present.
- Anti-DsDNA –ve, **Anti-Histone AB +ve**.
- When the drug is discontinued, the patient has resolution of clinical & laboratory abnormalities.
- Procainamide, **Hydralazine**, **phenytoin**, Penicillamine, Isoniazid, Quinidine, Anti-TNF, IFN...

◆ Quick summary: ACLE → butterfly rash SCLE → red raised scaly non scarring rash in sun exposed areas DLE → involves face, scalp, and ears

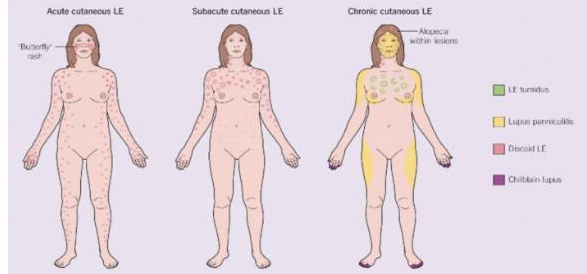
- ◆ ACLE and SCLE: epidermal and upper dermal
- ◆ DLE: superficial and deep dermis and around hair follicles
- ◆ Lupus tumidus: superficial and deep dermis
- ◆ Lupus panniculitis: subcutaneous fat



PREDOMINANT LOCATIONS OF INFLAMMATORY INFILTRATES IN SUBSETS OF CUTANEOUS LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS



CHARACTERISTIC SITES OF INVOLVEMENT FOR THE THREE MAJOR SUBTYPES OF CUTANEOUS LUPUS ERYTHEMATOSUS

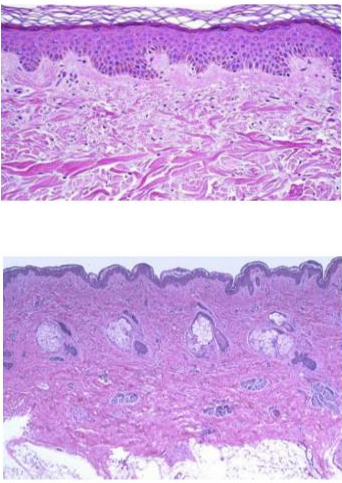
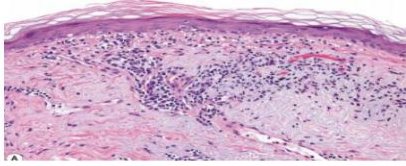
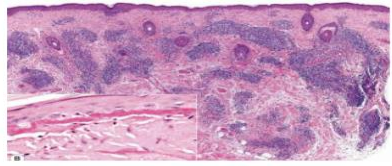


Predominant locations of inflammatory infiltrates in subsets of cutaneous lupus erythematosus. The types of cutaneous lupus erythematosus are: (ACLE),(SCLE), (DLE),(LET) and (LEP); the latter three are forms of chronic cutaneous lupus erythematosus. The primary locations of the infiltrates are as follows: superficial dermis, ACLE and SCLE; superficial plus deep dermis and periadnexal, DLE; superficial and deep dermis, LET; and subcutaneous fat, LEP. The final diagnosis requires clinicopathologic correlation

◆ **Diagnosis:**

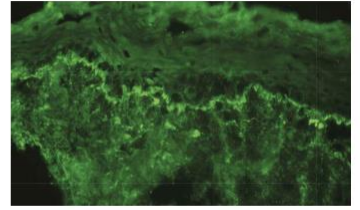
- History and physical examination.
- Skin biopsy (+/- DIF). **Almost all cases will need skin biopsy.**
- Autoantibodies (ANA, Anti-DsDNA, Anti-Sm)
- CBC with differential.
- Urinalysis, BUN, Creatinine.
- ESR, CRP.
- Complement levels (C3, C4). **The lower the complement level the higher the chance of having nephritis.**

Skin biopsy (lesional): The most valuable diagnostic test

Normal	ACLE	DLE
	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inflammatory cells near the epidermal-dermal junction ● Basal layer vacuolization (white halo) ● Acute cutaneous LE showing interface dermatitis with vacuolization of basal keratinocytes and sparse superficial lymphoid infiltrates 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inflammation around hair follicles and adnexal structures (dark areas) ● Thickening of basement membrane ● Chronic discoid LE showing focal interface dermatitis and dense perivascular and periadnexal lymphoid infiltrates throughout the entire dermis. A thickened basement membrane is a characteristic finding and can be highlighted by PAS staining.

Direct immunofluorescence of cutaneous lupus.

Granular deposits of IgM are present at the dermal–epidermal junction within lesional skin. Antibody deposits at the dermal–epidermal junction are the most characteristic immunohistologic finding in lesions of cutaneous lupus and normal skin of patients with systemic lupus erythematosus.



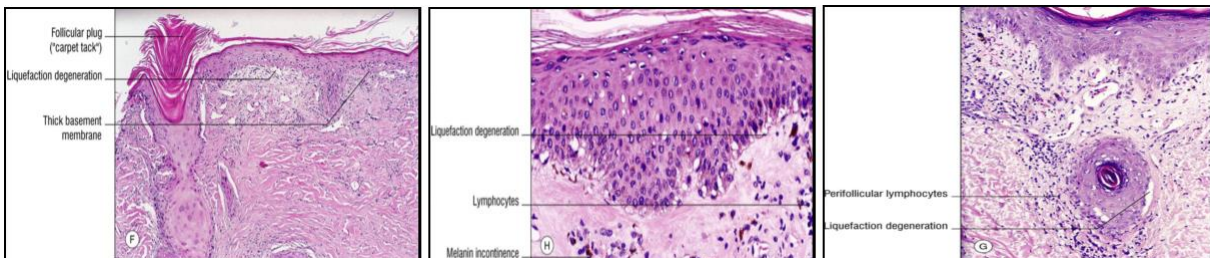
Direct Immunofluorescence (DIF)

Skin biopsy (lesional): The most valuable diagnostic test

- Done to support the diagnosis, negative results do not exclude dx.
- Lesional DIF: Granular deposition of IgG/IgM in the DEJ(Dermoepidermal junction) and around hair follicles.
- Non-lesional DIF (Normal skin) is referred to as "Lupus band" test. Positive reaction usually indicates systemic SLE.

◆ CLE Histopathology :

- Focal or continuous **epidermal atrophy**(epidermal thinning)
- Follicular **keratin plugs** (around hair follicles)
- **Vacuolar degeneration**along the dermo-epidermal junction zone (we will see a gap)
- Individual **necrotic keratinocytes**
- **Thickening of basement membrane**(one of the major criteria)
- Abundant interstitial **mucin deposits** in the reticular dermis
- Moderate to dense **superficial and deep perivascular and periadnexal lymphocytic infiltrate** (inflammatory cells)
- Note (melanocyte produce melanin which goes to keratinocytes the question is what will happen if the keratinocytes are destroyed where will the melanin go? It will go to the dermis **Its called melanin incontinence** the dermis will be pigmented)



◆ Histopathologically non-specificLE-skin manifestations:

- Photosensitivity
- Vasculitis: Palpable and nonpalpable purpura Urticarial-like vasculitis (Hypocomplementemic urticarial vasculitis)
- Vasculopathy: Raynaud's phenomenon, Livedo reticularis, Erythromelalgia
- Urticaria
- Non-scarring alopecia: **telogen effluvium**, **Alopecia Areata**, **lupus hairimp**
- **Scarring alopecia (discoid lupus) imp**
- Oral lesions **aphthous ulcers**
- Bullous lesions (non-specific)
- Acanthosis nigricans
- Mucinous infiltration
- Porphyria cutanea tarda.
- Acanthosis nigricans.
- Calcinosis Cutis

◆ Autoantibodies:

- **Specific** but not Sensitive:
 - Anti-dsDNA (Lupus nephritis)
 - Anti-Sm
- **Sensitive** but not specific:
 - ANA (>95%)
 - ssDNA (70%)
- Drug-induced lupus:
 - Anti-Histone Ab

◆ Diagnostic criteria of SLE:

- ACR criteria for diagnosis of SLE (4 out of 11):
 - **Malar Rash**
 - **Discoid Rash**
 - **Photosensitivity**
 - Oral ulcers
 - **Arthritis**
 - Serositis (Pleuritis OR Pericarditis)
 - Renal disorder (Proteinuria OR Cellular casts)
 - Neurologic disorder (Seizures OR Psychosis)
 - Hematologic disorder (Anemia OR leukopenia OR lymphopenia OR thrombocytopenia)
 - **Immunologic disorder (Anti-DNA OR Anti-Sm OR antiphospholipid AB's)**
 - **Antinuclear antibody (ANA) always positive in SLE**

◆ CLE Management:

- **Sun protection:** Education against sun exposure + the use of sunscreen .very important!
- Topical therapy
 - Topical steroids
 - Topical Calcineurin inhibitors e.g. Tacrolimus
 - ILK injections (intralesional kenalog "steroid" injection) (more aggressive).
- Systemic Therapy

1st line: Antimalarials (**Hydroxychloroquine**, Chloroquine, Quinacrine), Systemic steroids. Don't give two anti-malarial together, they have adverse effects on the eyes.

- Antimalarials side effect: xerosis, exanthematous or lichenoid drug eruptions, urticaria, blue-gray skin hyperpigmentation, **ocular toxicity**, **gastrointestinal upset**, myopathy, cardiomyopathy, and rare central nervous system side effects (dizziness, headache, insomnia, psychosis).
- Others (Retinoids, Thalidomide (**teratogenic**), Mycophenolate, azathioprine, Dapsone (**for bullus lupus**), systemic steroids....)

2) Dermatomyositis:

- A subtype of idiopathic inflammatory myopathies (IIMs)
- Characterized by **skin rash**, **proximal** muscle weakness, and inflammatory infiltrates in the muscle tissue.
- A relatively rare disease of presumed autoimmune pathogenesis that mainly affects the skin and muscles.
- Bimodal age distribution.
- Affects women two to three times more than men.
- **¼ of adults with DM have an associated occult malignancy.**
- Skin manifestations often precede the onset of symptoms related to malignancy.
- Some pts does not have evidence of muscle inflammation (Amyopathic dermatomyositis)
- **Some pts doesn't have muscle symptoms but if you test them there's inflammation (Hypomyopathic dermatomyositis)**

Clinical presentation

Pathognomonic Cutaneous manifestations: Only one is enough for diagnosis

1. **Heliotrope rash**: violaceous to dusky erythematous rash with or without edema in a symmetrical distribution involving upper palpebra skin. (classical picture of the characteristic dermatomyositis rash).



2. **Gottron's papules**: slightly elevated, violaceous papules and plaques over extensor surface of finger joints (sometimes they are shiny).

Gottron's papules are erythematous to violaceous papules that occur symmetrically over the extensor (dorsal) aspects of the metacarpophalangeal (MCP) and interphalangeal (IP) joints.



3. **Gottron's sign**: symmetric, non-scaling, violaceous to erythematous macules or patches, often atrophic, in the same distribution as Gottron's papules. Some people define them as gottron's papules, but patches not bump, and some define them as gottron's papules in areas other than the hand. (no papules are present in gottrons sign).







Characteristic Cutaneous features but not Pathognomonic



A- Facial erythema and edema



B-Poikiloderma photosensitive distribution: **V-sign**
Poikiloderma a rash that has: hyperpigmentation, hypopigmentation, atrophy, and telangiectasia

	
<p>C-Periungual and cuticular changes Dilation of capillary loops at the proximal nailfold Ragged and thickened cuticles, cuticular overgrowth, and periungual erythema. fragmentation over the cuticle area breach which make pt. prone to bacteria entry and infection</p>	<p>D-Poikiloderma over the upper back (shawl sign) Poikiloderma refers to skin that demonstrates both hyperpigmentation and hypopigmentation, as well as telangiectasias and epidermal atrophy. In DM, patients may demonstrate poikiloderma in any photo-exposed site; however, classic areas of involvement are the upper back (shawl sign)</p>
	
<p>E- Scalp:Erythematous to violaceous, psoriasiform dermatitis</p>	<p>F. Mechanic's hand :Cracking and fissuring of the skin of the fingerpads</p>

- **Common:**

- Heliotrope sign
- Eyelid edema
- Gottron's papules
- Gottron's sign
- Photodistributed Poikiloderma (V-sign, Shawl sign, Facial erythema)
- Psoriasiform scalp rash
- Nailfold changes (Ragged cuticles nail fold telangiectasia)
- Calcinosis Cutis (Juvenile DM)
- Pruritus.

- **Uncommon:**

- Cutaneous erosions or ulcerations
- **Holster sign** (first picture) **poikiloderma of the lateral thigh**
- **Flagellate Erythema** (picture A) **seen in the back**
- Vesiculobullous lesions
- Exfoliative erythroderma
- Panniculitis
- Gingival Telangiectasia
- Pustular eruption of the elbows and knees
- Lipoatrophy
- Small vessel vasculitis



◆ Systemic DM manifestations:

- Myopathy: affects proximal muscle groups, mainly the extensor groups (Triceps and quadriceps) in a symmetric fashion.
 - Calcinosis: More common in Juvenile DM, favors sites of trauma and can be painful. **Calcinosis :stony hard papules with cheesy material , do x-ray , it might be excised.**
 - Pulmonary disease: 15-30%, generally presents as diffuse interstitial fibrosis.
 - Patients may also develop ARDS
 - Cardiac disease: Usually asymptomatic (Arrhythmias, conduction defects)
 - Gastrointestinal: Symptoms such as dysphagia should prompt investigation for overlap with scleroderma.
- Ask questions like: are you able to comb your hair? Are you able to rise to your feet from a sitting position? Also cover a full systematic review to check for systemic involvement of DM and/or overlap with over CTDs.

◆ Malignancy:

- 10% to over 50% in adults.
- **Amyopathic DM also appears to be at increased risk of malignancy**
- Most common are: **Ovarian**, and **colon** cancer but can include: breast, lung, gastric, pancreatic, lymphomas.
- The risk of malignancy may return to normal after 2-5 years
- Screening:
 - Urinalysis, occult blood stool testing
 - Serum PSA (men), Serum CA125 (women)
 - Mammogram & Transvaginal U/S (women)
 - CT of chest, abdomen and pelvis.
 - Colonoscopy if age appropriate or iron deficiency anemia or symptoms
 - Upper endoscopy if colonoscopy negative in the setting of iron def anemia or symptoms.

Juvenile (childhood) DM

Major differences of from adult dm include:

- ◆ **More Calcinosis imp**
- ◆ **More Vascular inflammation imp**
- ◆ Lipodystrophy accompanied by insulin resistance

Juvenile onset: same as adult onset except no malignancy, but they have more tendency for cutaneous calcinosis and vasculopathy.

Drug-induced DM

- ◆ Quinidine
- ◆ **NSAID**
- ◆ **D-penicillamine**
- ◆ isoniazid and
- ◆ TNF antagonist

◆ Investigations:

- History, physical exam
- Skin: Biopsy (suggestive but not diagnostic)
- Serology: Autoantibodies.
- Muscle: **Serum CK, Aldolase, EMG, muscle biopsy(very conclusive)** (serum enzymes are important for diagnosis and even for management) low results mean that treatment is effective
- Pulmonary: PFT, chest X-ray and/or high resolution chest CT.
- Cardiac: ECG, if symptomatic → Echo.
- Esophageal: If symptomatic → Barium swallow.
- Malignancy screening.

◆ Autoantibodies:

- High specificity for DM/PM:
 - P155 → increased risk of malignancy
 - Mi-2 → good prognosis
 - Jo-1 (20%) → Antisynthetase syndrome (interstitial lung disease)
 - SRP → Fulminant DM, cardiac involvement.
- Low Specificity for DM/PM:
 - ANA (40%)

◆ Treatment:

- Sunscreens (high sun protection factor including protection against UVA)
- Topical corticosteroids
- Topical tacrolimus
- Hydroxychloroquine (200 mg twice daily; increased frequency of drug eruptions in patients with dermatomyositis)
- Hydroxychloroquine (200 mg twice daily) plus quinacrine (100 mg/day)
- Low-dose weekly methotrexate (5–15 mg weekly)
- Mycophenolate mofetil
- High-dose IVIg (2 g/kg/month)
- Retinoids, Dapsone, Thalidomide
- Leflunomide
- Antiestrogens (e.g. tamoxifen, anastrozole)
- TNF- α inhibitors (e.g. infliximab, etanercept)
- Rituximab

2) Systemic Sclerosis:

- An autoimmune connective tissue disease of unknown etiology that affects the skin, blood vessels and internal organs. *not hereditary although there are familial cases*
- The hallmark of the disease is thickening and tightness of the skin.
- characterized by fibrosis of the skin as well as internal organs, e.g. lung, heart, *gastrointestinal tract (most common)*, and kidneys.
- Two major clinical subtypes: **Limited** and **diffuse**.
- *Women are affected 3-4 times as often as men.*
- Onset typically between 30 -50 years old.
- Significant mortality rate, overall 10 yr survival of less than 70%. *This is why It's very important to diagnose and treat early.*

◆ Diagnostic criteria:

- Either one Major criterion
 - Symmetric cutaneous sclerosis proximal to the MCP or MTP joints.
- **Or Two or more Minor criterion:**
 - Sclerodactyly (localized)
 - thickening and tightness of the skin of the fingers or toes).
 - Digital pitted scars.
 - Loss of substance from finger pads.

◆ Pathogenesis:

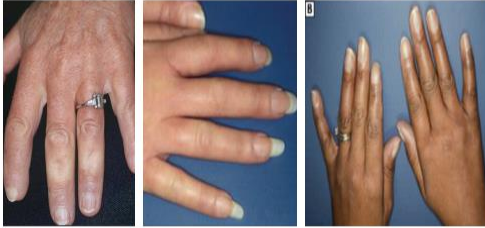
- Individual genetic background
- Exposure to environmental triggers(virus, drugs, vinyl chloride, silica and nanoparticles from traffic-derived pollution).
- Inducing vascular damage and fibroblast
- Activate cells that have ability to give origin to endothelial cells, or collagen producing cells
- These cells will migrate into injured tissues to differentiate into both endothelial cells and fibroblasts, to cause defective vasculogenesis or fibrosis or both, and to have immunomodulatory effects.
- The B cells in SSc are activated and produced anti-topoisomerase I and anti-centromere antibodies

◆ Classification:

Limited <i>fibrotic skin changes</i>	Diffuse <i>starting proximally + systemic involvement .</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Induration is limited to the distal extremities and face. ○ Tend to develop internal involvement late in the course of disease (decades) ○ CREST Syndrome:describes the clinical features in a subset of patients with limited SSc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Calcinosis ■ Raynaud's phenomenon ■ Esophageal involvement ■ Sclerodactyly ■ Telangiectasia ○ Pulmonary hypertension ○ Positive anticentromere antibodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Distal and proximal of the extremities plus the trunk and face ○ Typically associated with early internal organ involvement (within 5yrs of onset) and a worse prognosis. ○ Pulmonary fibrosis and Renal Crisis are more common. ○ Positive antitopoisomerase antibodies (anti scl-70)

◆ Cutaneous features of systemic disease:

- **Digits:**Early pitting edema (**early on**),hardening, taut and shiny appearance (**later on**).
- **Face:**Beaked nose, microstomia (small mouth) and a youthfulappearance.
- **Dyspigmentation:**Salt & pepper.
- **Telangiectasias:****Matted**(squared off) on the Face, lips and palms.
- **Nailfold capillary** abnormalities: in 90% (Capillary drop out alternating with dilated loops).
- Dystrophic Calcinosis Cutis.
- Raynaud's phenomenon.
- Cutaneous ulcer



Early phase of SSc

- Early, edematous phase of systemic sclerosis.
- Note the demonstration of pitting edema on two of the digits.
- **Edematous and shiny fingers**
- Swelling and sclerosis reduce hand movements, so patients may be unable to make a fist, or to place the palmar surfaces together - the 'prayer sign'.
- Fingertips may have pitting, ulcers or loss of bulk from finger pads



Late phase

Contractures, thick skin, ulceration and scars

Late stage of systemic sclerosis with diffuse cutaneous scleroderma. Note the fixed flexion contractures, sclerodactyly, and the digital ulceration overlying the third proximal interphalangeal joint



Raynaud's phenomenon:

Vasospasm of the digital microvasculature resulting in:

- digital ischemia (pallor)
- digital hypoxia (cyanosis)
- digital reactive hyperemia

(erythema)

(pale then blue then red), indicates more progressive illness.



Calcinosis cutis

white spots or ulcerations and may be quite painful.



Pitted scars scars of the digital pulp that form in distal areas



Salt and pepper pigmentation

Areas of hyper and hypopigmentation

The "salt and pepper" sign. Leukoderma with retention of perifollicular pigmentation in a patient with systemic sclerosis.



1st picture: regular telangiectasia (long and tortuous) seen in rosacea and other skin conditions.

2nd picture: matted telangiectasia seen in scleroderma (flat and rounded)

◆ Extracutaneous features of systemic disease:

- Pulmonary
- Cardiac
- Renal
- Gastrointestinal

◆ Autoantibodies:

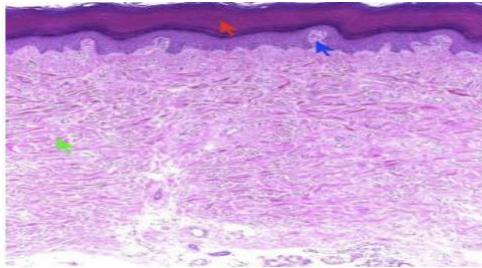
- ANA (Nucleolar and speckled patterns).
- Topoisomerase (Scl-70) → diffuse disease, ILD.
- **Anticentromere** → **Limited disease (CREST syndrome) IMP**
- RNA polymerase → Diffuse disease

Specific Antibodies

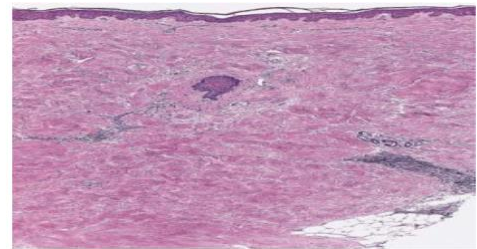
Autoantibody	Subtype (% subtype with antibody)	Clinical Characteristics
Antinuclear antibody	Limited cutaneous & diffuse cutaneous (95% nucleolar pattern is most specific)	Pulmonary arterial hypertension; Interstitial lung disease
Anticentromere antibody	Limited cutaneous (60 - 80%) Diffuse cutaneous (2 - 5%)	Pulmonary arterial hypertension Digital ulcerations or digital loss
Antitopoisomerase-1 antibody (anti-Scl-70)	Diffuse cutaneous (20 - 40%)	Rapidly progressive skin thickening; Scleroderma renal crisis; Pulmonary fibrosis

◆ Pathology:

- Skin biopsy: compact collagen, loss of subQ fat, deep lymphocytic infiltrate and trapped adnexal structures.
- DIF → usually negative.



Normal skin



Systemic sclerosis

Not a lot of epidermal changes
Thick areas (increase) (collagen) in the dermis and trapping of adnexal structures and loss of fat

◆ Treatment:



- Most interventions focus on internal organs and unfortunately, have no significant impact on cutaneous manifestations.
- Raynaud's → Keep warm, CCB (Nifedipine), Angiotensin II receptor blockers (Losartan), Phosphodiesterase type inhibitors (Sildenafil).
- ACE inhibitors is used to treat scleroderma renal crisis.
- Cyclophosphamide → ILD. interstitial lung disease
- Oral immunosuppressants.
- Matted Telangiectasias → Pulse dye laser.
- Cutaneous ulcers → Bosentan (approved in Europe but not US)

4) Morphea:

- An inflammatory skin disease that primarily affects the dermis and may extend to subcutaneous structures and lead to scar-like sclerosis.
- Does not lead to involvement of internal organs.
- Some people consider morphea as a subtype of scleroderma (localized scleroderma) and some people consider it as a different entity. The doctor likes to consider it as a different disease.
- **Clinical types:**
 - plaque type (56%).
 - Linear (20%).
 - Generalized (13%).
 - Deep morphea (11%).



◆ **Plaque Morphea:**

- Most common type of morphea
- Insidious onset of a slightly elevated, erythematous or violaceous, somewhat edematous plaque that undergoes centrifugal expansion.
- Asymptomatic, can go unnoticed by the patient.
- The central part of the progressing lesion starts to transform into sclerotic, scar-like tissue and the skin becomes more indurated.
- Centrally, it can acquire a shiny white color, and peripherally, a violaceous or "Lilac" Ring.
- As the lesion matures, post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation dominates the center over the white sclerosis.
- Most commonly affects the trunk, usually multiple and asymmetric.
- In most patients, morphea progresses over 3-5 years, then arrest and eventually resolves spontaneously. (residual atrophy/pigmentation are commonly observed)

	
<p>Early-stage lesion presenting as an erythematous edematous plaque not very specific</p>	<p>Plaque-type morphea of the back. Multiple, large hyperpigmented plaques, several of which have an inflammatory border. Advanced lesion Red and violaceous lesions</p>

◆ **Other variants of morphea:** Not important

- Guttate Morphea: multiple, nummular, small plaques.
- Atrophoderma of Pasini and Pierini: hyperpigmented patches on the posterior trunk.
- Deep Morphea: Deep dermis and fat (or deeper). May impair motility of the skin and calcify (osteoma cutis).
- Nodular/Keloid Morphea: keloid-like nodules.
- Bullous Morphea: Very rare.

	
<p>Deep morphea</p>	<p>Keloidal morphea</p>

<p>severe atrophy up to the subcutaneous tissue</p>	
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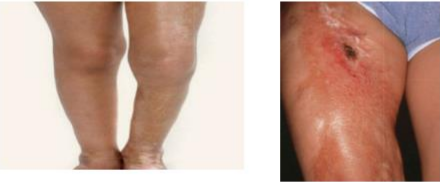
◆ **Linear morphea: IMP (linear scleroderma)**

● **En coup de sabre:**

- A term used for linear morphea of the forehead and scalp. Basically, morphea of the forehead and scalp
- Normally unilateral and extends from the forehead into the frontal scalp and leads to hair loss.
- Paramedian location is more common than a median location.

● **Hemifacial atrophy (Parry-Romberg syndrome):**

- A very severe variant of linear morphea. Some people consider it as a different entity
- Progressive loss of subcutaneous fat, but little or no sclerosis.
- **Linear morphea tends to involve the underlying fascia, muscle and tendon**

	<p style="text-align: center;">En coup de sabre</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Linear depressions and sclerosis are more frequently paramedian (rather than midline) and can be wide or narrow. Note the prominent veins and loss of the medial eyebrow</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Hyperpigmentation and loss of subcutaneous fat, leading to facial asymmetry, Hemifacial atrophy Loss of fat in the cheeks and pigment changes</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Linear morphea</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Pic on the left: Linear morphea of the leg in two adolescents. A Extensive induration of the left leg with hypoplasia and an obvious flexion contracture of the knee; there is also involvement of the right foot. B Linear distribution of coalescing sclerotic plaques on the thigh; note the lilac-colored border.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Linear distribution of coalescing sclerotic plaques on the thigh; note the lilac-colored border.</p>

◆ **Generalized morphea:**

- Rare
- Starts as regular plaque morphea but does not stop expanding.
- May even cause difficulty breathing due to impaired thoracic mobility.
- The disease usually persists despite aggressive treatments.
- More severe(4 or more), characterized by extension of skin damage and its association with muscle damage.

◆ Childhood morphea:

- 20% of Morphea patients are children and teenagers.
- 2:1 female to male ratio, mean age of disease onset is 7 years.
- **2%** of of linear morphea patients are under the age of 18.
- Linear morphea in children can affect the growth of a limb and lead to limb asymmetry as well as decrease range of motion of joints.

◆ Bullous morphea:

- is characterized by tense sub-epidermal bullae in the presence of typical morphea or deep morphea. sometimes comes with severe inflammation causing bullae.



Investigations:

- Lab -work is usually negative in Morphea except generalized & Linear Morphea (ANA +ve in 40-80%)
- Pathology: Helpful (similar to systemic sclerosis). Must be deepsample.

Treatment:

- **Phototherapy**
- **Topical therapy:**
 - Calcineurin inhibitors
 - Corticosteroids (Class I)
 - ILK injections
- **Systemic therapy:**
 - Systemic steroids
 - Methotrexate