



## Derma Team 436

# Acne and Acniform Eruptions

### Objective of the lecture

- To know the multiple pathogenetic mechanisms causing acne
- To recognize the clinical features of acne.
- To differentiate acne from other acniform eruptions such as rosacea.
- To prevent acne scars and treat acne efficiently.
- To recognize the clinical features of rosacea, its variable types, differential diagnosis and treatment.
- To recognize the features of perioral dermatitis, differential diagnosis and treatment.
- To recognize the features of hidradenitis suppurativa and treatment.

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**Template by group B**

**Before you start.. CHECK THE EDITING FILE**

**Sources:** doctor's slides and notes + 436 group B team

[ Color index: Slides | Slides | Important | doctor notes | Extra ]



Hidradenitis suppurative



Rosacea



Acne



Perioral dermatitis

## A) ACNE

### History of acne

Acne is an old disease, the problem dated back to the pharaohs in the Egypt 4000 years ago.  
Acne is the disease of pilosebaceous gland

### Acne Vulgaris

- Multifactorial disease of pilosebaceous unit.
- Affects both males and females.
- The most common dermatological disease.
- Mostly prevalent between 12-24 yrs.
- Affects 8% between 25-34, 4% between 35-44.

#### **Approach of acne:**

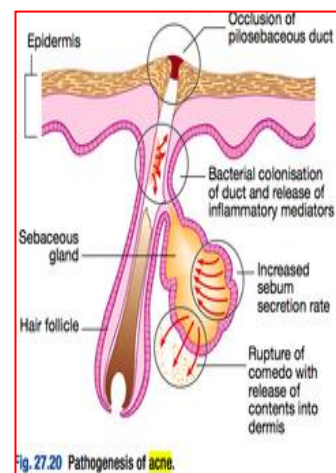
**Best description of pathogenesis of acne:** blockage, accumulation of sebum because of blockage

**Could it be bacterial?** Yes, because it is a good media for bacteria but NOT infectious

**Genetic and hormonal factors?** Yes (multifactorial)

### Pathogenesis:

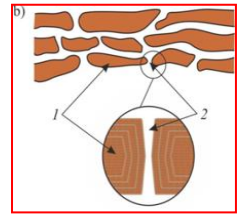
- Ductal cornification and occlusion (micro-comedo) due to altered keratinization. (micro-pathogenesis) This is why cleaning the skin is always advised.
- Increased sebum secretion (Seborrhoea).
- Ductal colonization with propioni bacterium acnes. It is a non-infectious inflammation.





- Rupture of sebaceous gland and inflammation.
- The first step is formation of micro-comedoes (the micro-pathogenesis), which causes blockage and accumulation of sebum, creating a good medium for bacterial growth and inflammation.

**Specialized terms:**

**Microcomedone:** Hyperkeratotic plug made of sebum and keratin in follicular canal.  
 Due to altered keratinization  
**Primary lesion:** papule

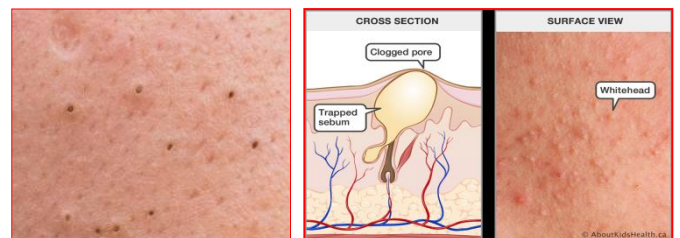
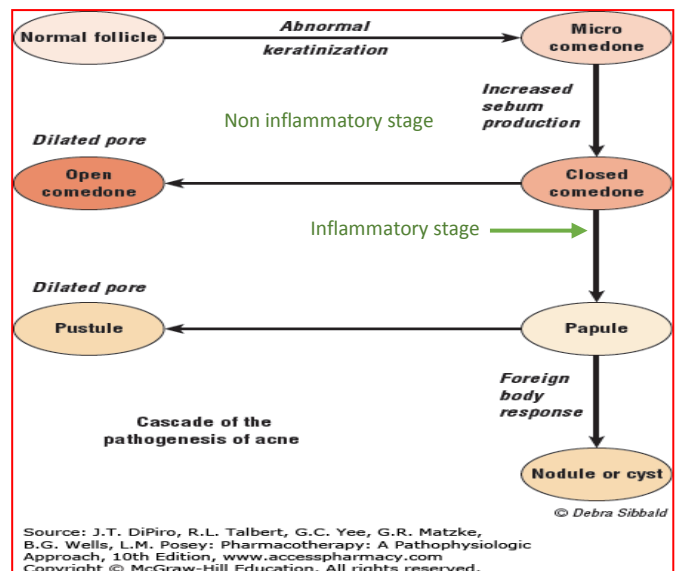


Closed Comedo (Whitehead):	Open Comedo (Blackhead):
Closed follicular orifice, accumulation of sebum and keratin 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opened follicular orifice packed with melanin and oxidized lipids.</li> <li>• It is open and exposed to oxygen, so it oxidizes the sebum and making it black.</li> </ul> 

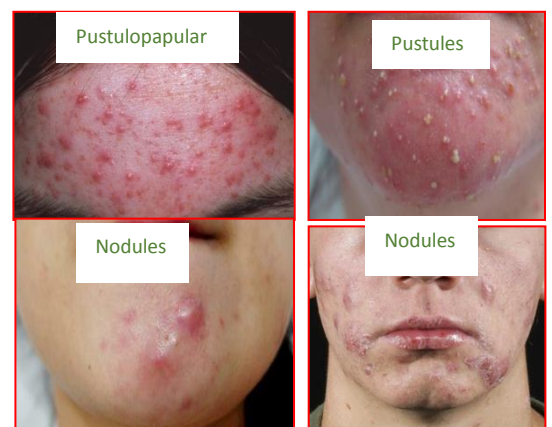
**Important picture:**

**Clinical Features**

- Acne lesions are divided into:
  - Inflammatory (erythematous papules, pustules, nodules, cyst)
  - Non inflammatory (open, closed comedons).
- **The comedons are the pathognomonic lesion.**
- Seborrhoea.
- Post inflammatory hyper pigmentation .
- Scarring (Atrophic or Hypertrophic).
- The severity of acne is determined based on the distribution and the morphology (cyst, nodule, pustule).
- Non inflammatory lesions  
 Closed and open comedones








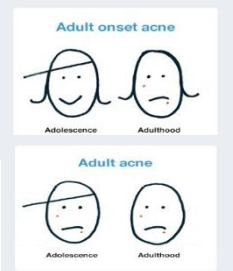
- **When follicles rupture into surrounding tissues they result in inflammatory lesions:**
  - Papules.
  - Pustules.
  - Nodules.





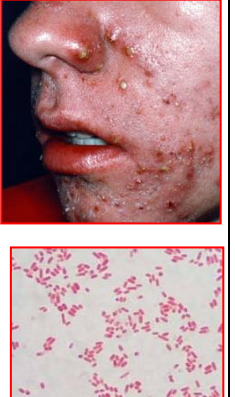


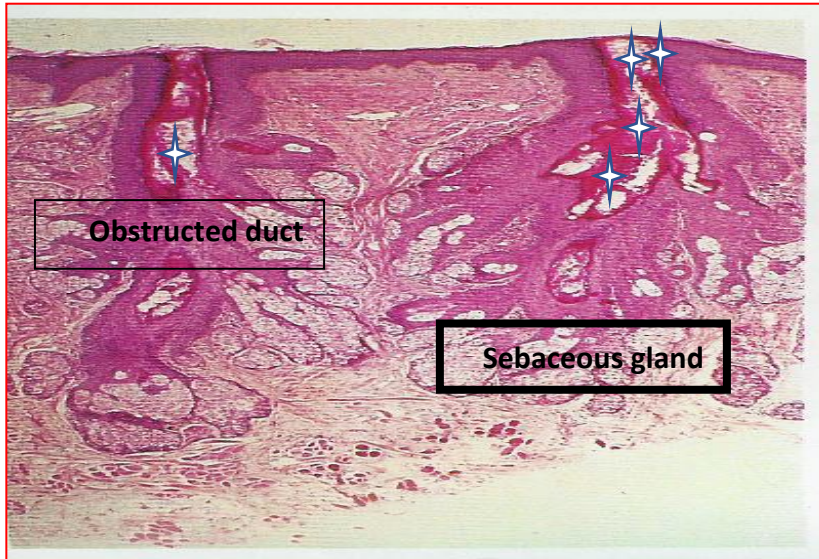
➤ Cysts.

- Lesions predominate in sebaceous gland rich regions (face, upper back, chest & upper arms). In areas of the pilosebaceous unit
- The severity of acne ranges from mild, moderate, severe according to the predominant lesion.
- Comedon predominance is considered to be mild, while extensive papulopustules and nodules or cysts are considered severe.

**Acne Subtypes:**

<p><b>1- Neonatal Acne</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onset between 0-6 w of age. Up to 8</li> <li>• Characterized by closed comedons.</li> <li>• Resolve spontaneously within 1-3 months.</li> <li>• No relation with later development of acne.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>2- Infantile Acne</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Onset between 3-6 m. Up to 1 year</li> <li>• Characterized by inflammatory lesions.</li> <li>• Can be associated with precocious androgen secretion secondary to brain hamartoma and astrocytoma.</li> <li>• Think of hormonal issues that could continue with him throughout his life, <u>must be treated</u>.</li> <li>• Endocrinology examination (LH) and bone age is important.</li> <li>• There is increased risk of development of severe acne later in life.</li> </ul>	  
<p><b>3- Teenage Acne</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More in boys.</li> <li>• Mainly comedonal.</li> <li>• May be the first sign of puberty.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4- Adult Acne</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Affects adults above 25 years.</li> <li>• Can be continuation of teenage acne or start denovo.</li> <li>• IF associated with hirsutism, irregular periods evaluate for hypersecretion of ovarian androgens (e.g. Polycystic ovary syndrome).</li> <li>• More in females.</li> <li>• R/O: PCOS (ask about hirsutism + menstrual cycle)</li> </ul>	

<p><b>5-Drug Induced Acne</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Steroids, Iodides, Bromides, INH, Lithium, Phenytoin, Epidermal growth factor inhibitors (cetuximab) cause acniform eruption.</li> <li>• The characteristic feature of steroids acne is the absence of comedons and <b>monomorphic lesions as small pustules and papules all looking alike</b></li> <li>• <b>Mostly, males take steroids for sports and body building, females take steroids for skin whitening effects without prescription.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>6- Acne Conglobata</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Most aggressive.</b></li> <li>• Highly inflammatory; with comedons, nodules abscesses, draining sinuses, over the back and chest.</li> <li>• Often persist for long periods.</li> <li>• Affect males in adult life (18-30 years).</li> <li>• <b>Heals with scars (Depressed or Keloidal).</b></li> <li>• <b>Most important:</b> leaves keloid scars.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>7- Acne Fulminans</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden massive inflammatory tender lesions with <b>ulceration</b></li> <li>• Heals with scarring.</li> <li>• Associated with <b>fever</b>, increased ESR &amp; CRP, <b>polyarthralgia</b>, leukocytosis. <b>Systemic involvement.</b></li> <li>• What are the risk factors?</li> <li>• How would treat?</li> <li>• <b>To differentiate it from acne conglobata:</b> Acne fulminans is <b>acute with ulceration and systemic involvement.</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>8- Occupational Acne Rare</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Due to contact with oils – tars – <b>chlorinated hydrocarbons</b> used in the synthesis of insecticides and solvents.</li> <li>• Lesions appear at site of contact including large comedons, papules, pustules, nodules.</li> <li>• The most serious form is the chloracne due to systemic effect (liver damage –CNS involvement, decrease lung vital capacity).</li> </ul>	 <p style="text-align: center;">chloracne</p>
<p><b>9- Gram NegativeFolliculitis</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infection with G –ve organisms (Klebsiella, proteus, E.coli).</li> <li>• Seen in patients under chronic antibiotic acne treatments.</li> <li>• Superficial pustules without comedons or even cysts involving from intranasal area to chin and cheeks.</li> <li>• Response to ampicillin, Isotretenoin, TMP-SM. <b>Long-term tetracycline</b></li> </ul>	



**Obstructed sebaceous duct**  
Filling of keratin



**Closed and open comedones**

Two clinical photographs showing skin conditions. The top photo shows post-inflammatory hyperpigmentation (PIH), characterized by dark, irregular patches on the skin. The bottom photo shows post-inflammatory erythema (PIE), characterized by red, irregular patches on the skin.

**Postinflammatory hyperpigmentation**  
 - A local excess of dark pigment (melanin) following an inflammation, such as inflammatory acne.  
 - More common in melanin-augmented individuals.  
 - Also known as "PIH"

**Postinflammatory erythema**  
 - Areas of superficial blood vessels (red) remaining from the wound healing process. Common after inflammatory acne.  
 - More visible, but not necessarily less common, in lighter-skinned individuals.  
 - Also known as "PIE".

**Marked post inflammatory hyperpigmentation and erythema**



**Nodules**  
Moderate to severe



**Acne conglobata with nodules and scars**



**Neonatal acne**



**Seborrhea and papules , pustules**



**Nodules , Keloides**



**Acne conglobata**  
**Nodules, Keloides, Sinuses, Scars**



- **Acne fulminans** in 2 weeks with ulceration and clear exudates.
- **Nodules, pustules closed comedones, papules, pus .**



**Acne icepick and boxcar scars**  
Deep scars not keloids



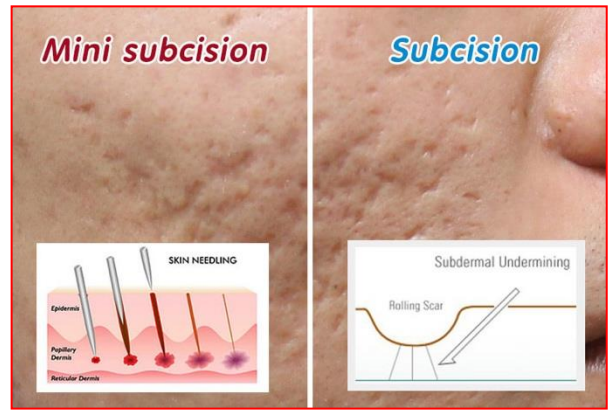
**Monomorphic steroid acne**  
Same morphology Indicate drug induced. (pathognomic/diagnostic)



**Hirsutism and acne**



ACNE SCARS



Rolling acne scars

Aggravating Factors:

- **Diet has no relation to acne.** Imp There is no evidence
- Pre menstrual flare.
- Sweating. Hyegine.
- UV radiation.
- Stress.
- Friction.
- Cosmetics.



Differential Diagnosis:



Rosacea



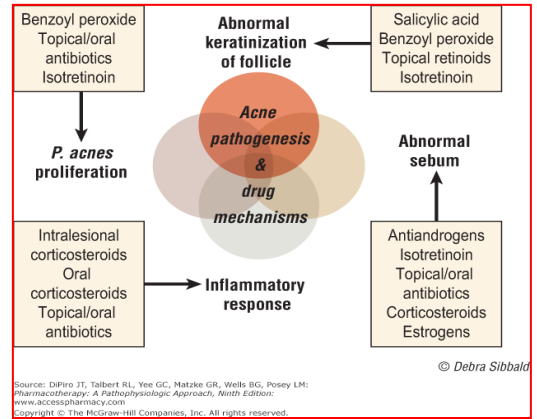
Folliculitis





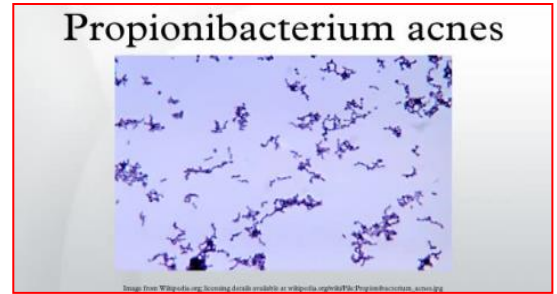
## ACNE TREATMENT – Goals:

- **Decrease scarring.** Most important aim.
- Decrease unsightly appearance.
- Decrease psychological stress.
- Explain length of treatment, may be several months and initial response may be slow but must persevere.



## Principles in treating acne:

- Reverse the altered keratinization.
- Decrease the intra-follicular P.acnes.
- Decrease sebaceous gland activity.
- Decrease inflammation.



## Treatment

Topical	Oral	Miscellaneous
Benzoyl peroxide	<b>Antibiotics:</b> Doxycycline Minocycline Erythromycin	Laser resurfacing
Retinoic acid		Chemical peel
Adaplene Tazarotene ,		Comedo extraction
Resorcinol,Sulfer		Dermaberation
Azeliac acid	<b>Retinoids:</b> Isotretinoin	Intralesional steroid
<b>Antibiotics:</b> Clindamycin Erythromycin		CROSS
		<b>Hormones:</b> Antiandrogens OCP

**Topical Therapy:** (alter keratinization)

**Benzoyl peroxide:**

- High antibacterial activity.
- Drying effect.
- Could cause irritation and contact dermatitis.

**Retinoic Acid:**

- Comedolytic activity.
- Advice patient not to expose to sun as it may lead to burn.

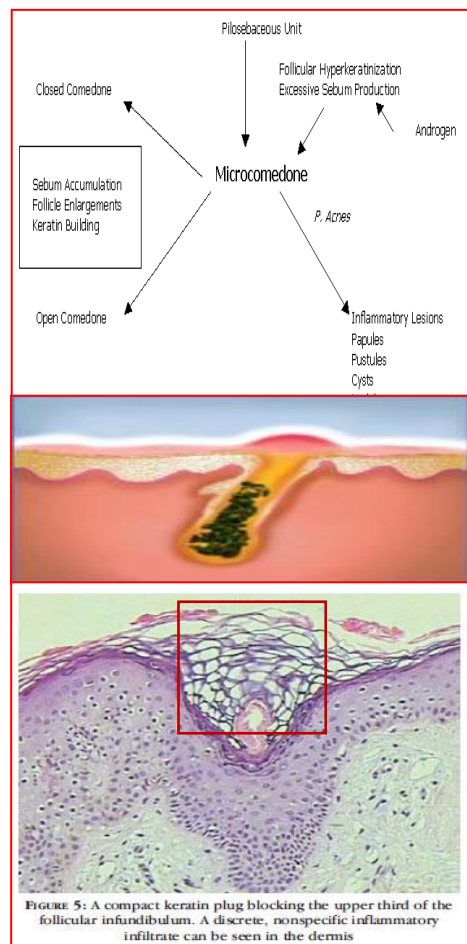
**Salicylic Acid:**

- Comedolytic, less potent than retinoic acid.

**Resorcinol and sulfur:** are keratolytic.

**Azeliac acid:** antibacterial and bleaching.

- Topical treatment result is noticed within 2 months.



Drug	Dose	Recommendation and Duration
Tetracycline	0.5 BD	Taken on empty stomach to promote absorption Not to be taken with milk or antacid <b>Not to be given to pregnant women "Why"?</b> Not given to children under 12 years old because it causes teeth discoloration.
Erythromycin	0.5 g BD	For pregnant women with bad acne
azithromycin	250mg	3 consecutive days/w for pregnant women
Doxycycline	100 mg/day	Can be taken with food, photosensitivity.
Minocycline	100 mg/day	Drug could cause blue – black pigmentation in scars, lupus, hepatitis, photosensitive drug rash
Clindamycin		Could cause pseudo membranous colitis
Trimethoprim Sulphamethoxazole		Used only in resistant cases .
Isotretinoin	0.5-1mg/kg	Give long term remission Given in resistant acne <b>Not given to pregnant women.</b> She can get pregnant 1-2 months after discontinuation of the drug. You need to monitor liver and lipid profile.

## Acne treatment:

### Systemic Antibiotic:

- Have to be used for 3 months to avoid resistance.

### Hormonal:

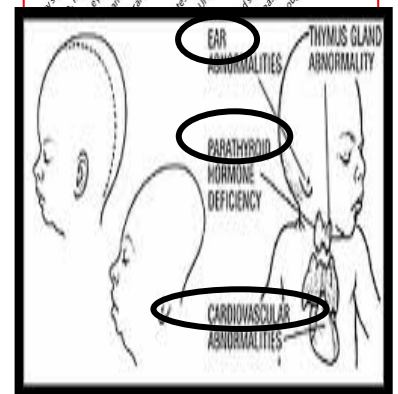
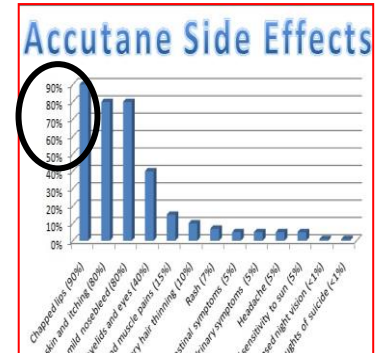
- OCP consider less androgenic progestogen eg marvelon/cilest, but increased risk of DVT.
- Consider cyproterone acetate (antiandrogen) with oestrogen(dianette) . flutamide (antiandrogen).

### Isotretinoin [Accutane]:

- Vitamin A analogue

### Side Effects of Isotretinoin:

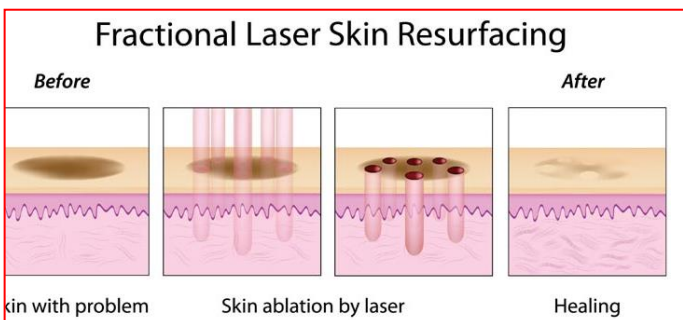
- Dryness of mucous membranes [Chelitis, Conjunctivitis].
- Headache and increased intracranial pressure [Pseudotumor cerebri].
- Isotretinoin should not be given with tetracycline.
- Contact lens intolerance.
- Bone and joint pains.
- Increases triglycerides and cholesterol or LFT.
- Patients should avoid pregnancy 4 w after discontinuation of drug because of teratogenicity.
- Depression and mood swings.



**CROSS (chemical reconstruction of skin scars)**

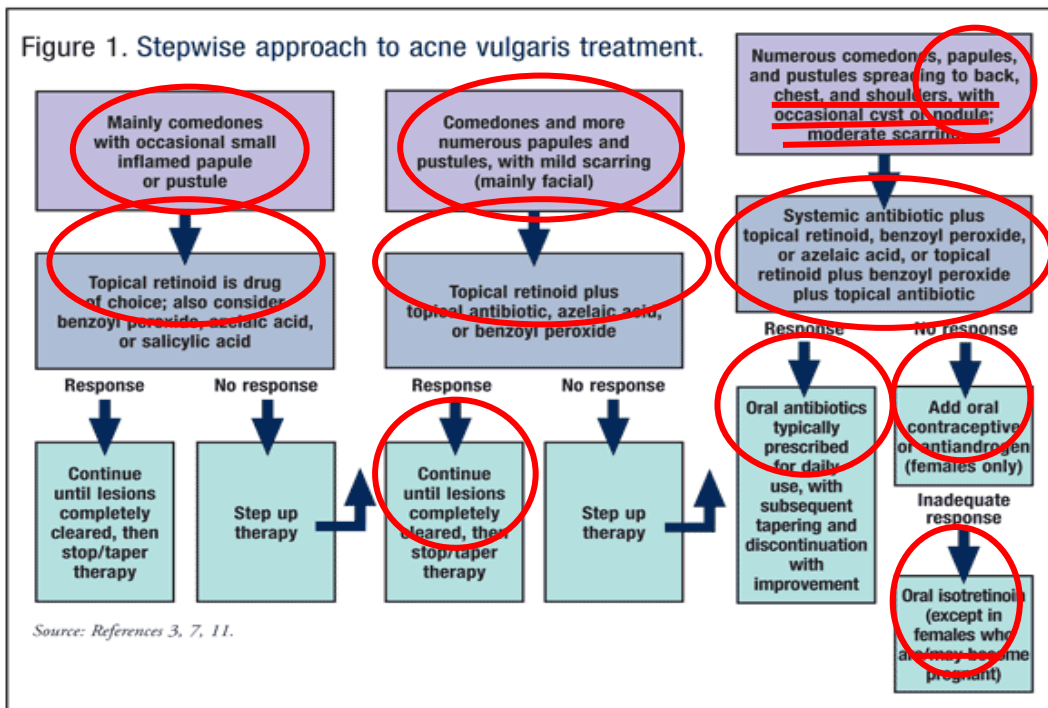


**Comedo extraction**



**AFTER 3 SESSIONS OF FRACTIONAL CO2 LASER**

Figure 1. Stepwise approach to acne vulgaris treatment.



### Take home message:

- **A** avoid squeezing and manipulation.
- **C** comply with medication.
- **N** no cosmetics and moisturizers.
- **E** early treatment to avoid scarring.

## B) Rosacea:

Age of onset  
Morphology  
Central face (nose)

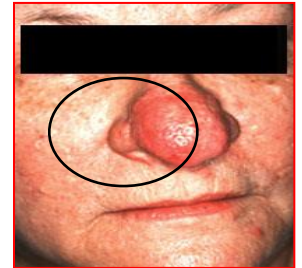


### Definition:

- Papules and Papulo- pustules in the center of the face and nose against vivid erythematous background with telangi-ectasia.

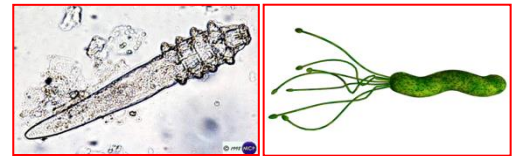
### Incidence:

- Common in 3rd and 4th decade
- Peaks between 40-50.
- Common in fair skin.
- Women are affected more than men but rhinophyma is more in men.



### Rosacea Pathogenesis:

- Unknown.
- Genetic predisposition (38% have a relative).
- Sunlight and heat.
- Constitutional predisposition to flushing & blushing.
- Demodex folliculorum mite.
- H. Pylori infection.



### Clinical Findings

#### The Hall Mark Is:

- Episodes of flushing and erythema in butterfly distribution.
- Papules and pustules.
- Erythema and telangiectasia (irreversible dilation of peripheral capillaries)  
Telangiectasia is only in rosacea not acne.
- Absent comedons.
- Granulomas [firm papules].



### Localization:

- The nose, cheeks, chin, forehead, glabella.
- May involve ears, chest.



### Types of Rosacea:

- Erythematotelangiectatic.
- Papulopustular.
- Ocular.
- Phymatous.



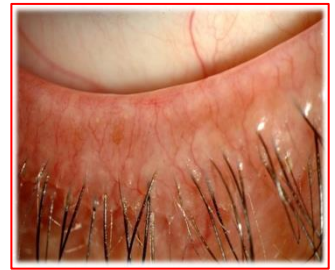
## Complications:

### Phymatous complication:

- **Rhinophyma:** Swelling of the nose due to sebaceous gland hyperplasia.
- **Other phymatous complications include:** gnathophyma, otophyma, blepharophyma and metophyma.

### Eye complications:

- Occurs in 50% of cases including:
- Blepharitis.
- Conjunctivitis.
- Keratitis.
- Iritis.
- Eyelid telangi-ectasia.



## Associated diseases:

### MARSH syndrome:

- Melasma.
- Acne.
- Rosacea.
- Seborrheic dermatitis.
- Hirsutism.



## Triggers:

- Hot or cold temperatures, Wind.
- Hot drinks, Caffeine, Spicy food, Alcohol.
- Exercise.
- Emotions.
- Topical products that irritate the skin and decrease the barrier.
- Medications that cause flushing (nicotinamide).

## Differential Diagnosis

- SLE (erythema only). SLE has telangiectasia + atrophy. In rosacea there is no atrophy.
- Acne (comedons).
- Seborrheic dermatitis no pustules
- Perioral dermatitis.



Rhinophyma  
One of the worst complication



Papules on erythematous background



Telangiectasia, papules , blepharitis , conjunctivitis



Perioral dermat



Papules on erythematous background , telangiectasia



Malar erythema and scales

**Treatment Schedules are determined by stage & severity.**

**General measures:**

- The skin of rosacea patients is delicate to physical insults.
- Patient should use mild soaps or diluted detergents.
- Protection against sunlight by sunscreen
- Avoid hot drinks and heat.

Topical	Systemic
<b>1. Topical antibiotics</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clindamycin.</li> <li>• Erythromycin.</li> </ul>	Tetracycline reduces erythema.
<b>2. Metronidazole (gel):</b> Affects papules or pustules but no effect on erythema (most imp drug)	Oxy-tetracycline.
<b>3. Imidazoles</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• e.g. Ketoconazole cream</li> <li>• Has anti-inflammatory action</li> </ul>	Minocycline
<b>4. 2-5% sulfur lotion, sulfacetamide</b>	Doxycycline
<b>5. Isotretinoin 0.1% in cream</b>	Isotretinoin in resistant phymas cases (0.1 - 0.2 mg/kg)
<b>Antiparasitic :</b> Lindane, permethrin, Benzyl benzoate, Crothamiton ,ivermectin	Metronidazole 500 mg for 20-60 days
Sunscreen, Vascular laser, brimonidine $\alpha$ -adrenergic blocker	Azithromycin

**Topical:**

- Metronidazole gel 0.75%.
- Erythromycin 2% gel bid.

**Systemic:**

- Minocycline 100 mg bid till clear then taper.
- Doxycycline 100 mg bid then taper.
- Tetracycline 500 mg bid till clear and tapered.
- Anti H. pylori therapy.

### Take home message:

**R** recognize triggers. Avoiding triggers could decrease it by 20-30%.

**O** ocular hygiene.

**S** sunblock.

**A** avoid hot food.

**C** comply with instructions.

**E** early treatment.

**A** avoid scrubs and harsh cleansers.

### **C) Perioral dermatitis:** (know how to differentiate from acne)

- Occurs mainly in young women.
- Discrete & confluent papulo- pustules over the perioral or periorbital skin sparing the vermilion border of lips.
- No comedons.
- Predominant in females at 20- 30 years of age.
- Aggravated by topical steroids, dentifrice and moisturizers.
- Occasionally itchy or burning or feeling of tightness.



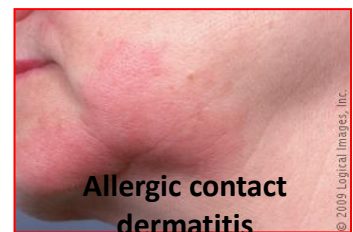
Female with papules over chin



Papules , pustules, no comedones

### Differential Diagnosis:

- Acne.
- Rosacea.
- Seborrheic Dermatitis.
- Atopic Dermatitis.
- Allergic Contact Dermatitis.



### Treatment:

- Similar to acne but do not give isotretinoin (reserved for resistant cases).
- Wean patients of topical steroid.



- Stop any moisturizers.
- In pregnant mild cases use topical antimicrobial therapy with metronidazole gel and erythromycin solution.
- Pimecrolimus cream in steroid induced perioral dermatitis.
- Topical anti acne medication like adaplene and azelaic acid.
- In severe cases oral doxycycline or minocycline .
- **Isotretinoin for resistant cases.**

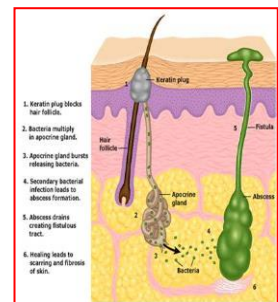
## D) Hidradenitis Supprativa:

- Chronic recurrent suppurative scarring disease of **apocrine gland bearing skin (axillae, anogenital region, under female breast)**.
- Associated with obesity.
- Develops in 2nd and 3rd decades.



### Pathogenesis:

- Unknown
- Apocrine duct occlusion.
- Dilatation and rupture of apocrine gland.
- Secondary bacterial infection with (Coagulase negative staphylococcus, anaerobes are often cultured) and draining sinuses. **Bad situation.**
- Genetic predisposition [38% have a relative affected].



### Clinical Presentation

- Intermittent **severe pain** and tenderness.
- Pus drainage.
- Double headed comedons [characteristic lesion].
- Nodules, abscess, sinus tracts, scarring.
- Submammary, axillary , inguinal regions are common in females.
- Perineal involvement occurs more in males.



*Appendix Table 3. Hurley Stages*

Stage	Description
I	Abscess formation (single or multiple) without sinus tracts and cicatrization
II	Recurrent abscesses with tract formation and cicatrization; single or multiple, widely separated lesions
III	Diffuse or near-diffuse involvement or multiple interconnected tracts and abscesses across the entire area



Bad findings: Fistulas, cysts, scars.

### Associated findings

The follicular occlusion tetrad including:

- Extensive acne vulgaris (conglobata variety).
- Perifolliculitis of the scalp.
- Pilonidal sinus.
- Crohn's disease in 39% of patients.
- Irritable bowel syndrome.
- Sjogren syndrome.



Hidradenitis suppurativa



Acne conglobata



Perifolliculitis



Pilonidal sinus



Sinuses, nodule, connecting tracts



Double headed comedones



Tracts, sinuses

## Treatment:

### General measures:

- Practicing proper **hygiene**.
- Using soaps and antiseptic and antiperspirant agents.
- Using warm compresses.
- Wearing loose-fitting clothing.
- **Smoking cessation**.
- **Weight reduction**.
- **Pain management by paracetamol**.

### Medical :

- **Intralesional triamcinolone acetonide for acute lesions**
- **Antibiotics** (minocycline , doxycyclin clindamycin, rifampicin, metronidazole)
- Retinoids (Acitretin better than isotretinoin)
- Antiandrogens.
- **Biological therapy** (infliximab, adalimumab)
- **Basically, steroids or systemic antibiotics and biological therapy.**

### Surgical:

- Incision and drainage of abscess better avoided
- Excision of sinus tracts and chronic nodules
- Complete excision of the area and grafting.
- CO2 laser.



## Questions:

- 1) **a patient has acne and with a resistant acne on topical antibiotic what would you give with antibiotic to enhance antibiotics role also f treat his condition**
  - A. tretinoin
  - B. benzoyl peroxidase
  - C. azelaic acid
  
- 2) **Which of following makes diagnosis of acne vulgaris more likely over rose acne?**
  - A. Mostly comedones
  - B. Mostly papules
  - C. Mostly pustules
  - D. Mostly plaques
  
- 3) **Which of these findings favors a diagnosis of acne instead of rosacea?**
  - A- Scarring
  - B- Papules
  - C- Pustules
  - D- Erythema
  
- 4) **Which of the following dermatological disorders cause hypertrophy of sebaceous glands?**
  - A. Rosacea
  - B. Acne
  - C. Atopic dermatitis
  
- 5) **A 30-year-old lady who has recently exposed to the sun and taking vitamin B6 supplements for over a year. She presented with episodic flushing, telangiectasia, few papules and pustules over both cheeks and forehead. The clinical picture is characteristic of which of the following diseases?**
  - A. Rosacea
  - B. Drug induced lupus
  - C. Drug induced acne
  - D. Folliculitis

1	2	3	4	5
B	A	A	A	A