Guttate psoriasis
Psoriasis may be divided into psoriasis vulgaris, generalized pustular psoriasis, and localized pustular psoriasis.

**Psoriasis Vulgaris**

**Clinical Features**
Psoriasis vulgaris is a common chronic inflammatory skin disorder that affects approximately 1.5% to 2%
associated with acute group A ~-hemolytic streptococcal infections. Involvement of the nails is common...
Psoriatic arthritis characteristically involves the terminal interphalangeal joints, but frequently the large joints are also affected.

### Generalized Pustular Psoriasis

**Clinical Features**

Generalized pustular psoriasis includes (a) acute generalized pustular psoriasis (von Zumbusch type and...]
Guttate psoriasis

This cutaneous eruption is characterized by the presence of variable numbers of sterile pustules appearing in the axillae, flexures, and lower back.

The four variants of generalized pustular psoriasis show considerable resemblance and overlapping in their clinical picture and also have a similar histologic appearance. They differ mainly in the mode of onset and the distribution of the lesions. Frequently, all four diseases show oral pustules, particularly on the tongue.

Acute generalized pustular psoriasis of von Zumbusch is generally diagnosed when the pustular eruption occurs in patients with preexisting psoriasis, either of the plaque type or of the erythrodermic type. Frequently, the eruption occurs after systemic steroid therapy withdrawal. The exanthematous type of generalized pustular psoriasis refers to a group of patients with later onset of psoriasis, atypical distribution of the lesions, and a rapid and apparently spontaneous pustular eruption.
**Guttate psoriasis**

**Generalized pustular psoriasis of pregnancy** is a rare pustular eruption that appears during the last trimester of pregnancy. It starts with flexural lesions of ... may occur repeatedly during successive pregnancies. Some authors have considered it to be the same disease as **impetigo herpetiformis**, but others claim that they stand as separate entities.

In some instances of **subacute annular pustular psoriasis** or gyrate lesions show a clinical resemblance...
Very rarely, children develop generalized pustular psoriasis, also known as infantile and juvenile pustular psoriasis. The disease has a benign course with frequent spontaneous remissions.

**Localized Pustular Psoriasis**

**Clinical Features**
There are three types of localized pustular psoriasis: (a) "psoriasis with pustules", in which only one or a few areas...
**Acrodermatitis continua of Hallopeau** is the term used when the pustular eruption involves the distal portions of the hands and feet. In the localized type of... portions of extremities are involved. Atrophy of the skin and permanent nail loss may occur on the fingers and toes.

**Pustulosis palmaris et plantaris** is a chronic, relapsing disorder occurring on the...
The association between psoriasis and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection is commonly seen. The prevalence of psoriasis in HIV-infected patients is higher compared to the general population, and psoriasis may be an early indicator of HIV infection (1). Extensive erythrodermic psoriasis may occur (109). Palmoplantar involvement, flexural (inverse) psoriasis, and psoriatic arthritis occur in 10% of cases. Clinically, psoriasis may have a more severe course with sudden exacerbations and may be refractory to treatment. A trend of low peripheral T-cell CD4+ (helper-inducer) counts and a more severe clinical course has been noted.
Psoriasis Vulgaris

Histopathology
The histologic picture of psoriasis vulgaris varies considerably with the stage of the lesion and usually is diagnostic only in early, scaling papules and near the margin of advancing plaques.

The earliest pinhead-sized macules or smooth-surfaced papules show subtle histologic changes with a preponderance of ... by an early scaling papule, a histologic diagnosis of psoriasis can often be made. In some cases, when there is marked
exocytosis of neutrophils, they may aggregate in the uppermost portion of the spinous layer to form small
In the fully developed lesions of psoriasis, as best seen at the margin of enlarging plaques, the histologic...
Of the listed features, only the spongiform pustules of Kogoj and Munro microabscesses are truly diagnostic of psoriasis, as these findings can rarely be made with certainty on a histologic basis. The changes in active psoriasis are discussed in detail later.

The rete ridges show considerable elongation and extend downward to a uniform level, resulting in regular acanthosis.
show thickening ("clubbing") in their lower portion. Not infrequently, adjacent rete ridges seem to coalesce...
The suprapapillary epidermis appears relatively thin in comparison with the markedly elongated rete ridges.
In some instances the cornified layer consists entirely of confluent parakeratosis forming a platelike scale.

Munro microabscesses are located within the parakeratotic areas of the cornified layer. They consist of
The dermal papillae, in accordance with the elongation and basal thickening of the rete ridges, are elongated and club-shaped. However, there is an increased presence of lymphocytes in the papillae, except in early lesions where neutrophils are also present in the upper portion of the papillae.
An entirely typical histologic picture as described earlier is not always found, even if the biopsy specimens are taken in their most florid stage. Focal parakeratosis, or, occasionally, alternating layers of orthokeratosis and parakeratosis, indicate a fluctuation in the activity of the psoriasis.

The bleeding points that may be produced by gentle scraping of the skin (Au spitz sign) correspond to the tips of dermal papillae, thinning of the suprapapillary plates, and dilation of the capillaries in the upper portion of the papillae.
Guttate or eruptive psoriasis shows the histologic features of an early or active lesion of psoriasis, where there is more pronounced inflammatory reaction. The epidermis is thickened and the cornified layer overlying the mounds of parakeratosis with neutrophils, which, in turn, may appear loosely arranged.

The histologic picture of erythrodermic psoriasis in some instances shows enough of the characteristics of psoriasis to allow this diagnosis. Frequently, however, the histologic appearance is indistinguishable from that of a chronic eczematous dermatitis.

**Generalized Pustular Psoriasis**
Histopathology
Whereas in ordinary psoriasis the spongiform pustule of Kogoj is a very small micropustule and is seen ...
In addition to the large spongiform pustules, the epidermal changes in generalized pustular psoriasis are...
In the healing stage, the lesions of all types of generalized pustular psoriasis may present the same histologic appearance as ordinary psoriasis.

**Localized Pustular Psoriasis**
Histopathology

In the variants of localized pustular psoriasis "psoriasis with pustules" and localized annular pustular psoriasis, the histologic picture is the same as that described for generalized pustular psoriasis.

In localized acrodermatitis continua of Hallopeau, the nail bed is mainly affected, showing marked epithelial hyperplasia and hyperkeratosis with mounds of parakeratosis with neutrophils. The nail matrix is only occasionally involved.
In pustulosis palmaris et plantaris there is a fully developed large intraepidermal unilocular pustule. It is elevated above the epidermis. In many instances one can observe typical, although small, spongiform pustules in the epidermal wall of the pustule, most commonly at the junction of the lateral walls and the overlying epidermis. These spongiform pustules are identical to those seen in the walls of the pustules of generalized pustular psoriasis.
Very early lesions may show spongiosis and exocytosis of lymphocytes in the lower epidermis overlying...
Histopathology

The histologic picture in most cases is similar to that of psoriasis. In others, the histologic sections may show some plasma cells. As in other dermatitides related to AIDS, eosinophils may be present in the inflammatory infiltrate.
Although the cause of psoriasis is unknown, there is increasing evidence of a complex interaction among altered keratinocytic proliferation and differentiation, inflammation, and immune dysregulation.
Electron Microscopy
The earliest recognizable morphologic events in psoriasis have been investigated in lesions that cleared...
Guttate psoriasis
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Ultrastructural studies of the spongiform pustule of Kogoj, one of the most characteristic histologic struct... in a multilocular pustule in which the spongelike network is composed of degenerated and flattened keratinocytes.

The ultrastructure of the capillary loops in the dermal papillae shows them to be different from normal cap...
Epidermal Cell Cycle Kinetics
The rate of epidermal cell replication is markedly accelerated in active lesions of psoriasis, as shown by...
Early calculations made it appear likely that in psoriatic lesions there was a great acceleration of the transit time of the cell layer, from approximately 53 days in normal epidermis to only 7 days in the epidermis of active psoriatic lesions.

Further investigations have found that (a) the germinative cell cycle is shortened from 311 to 36 hours, indicating that...

...keratinocytes, (b) there is a doubling of the proliferative cell population in psoriasis from 27,000 to 52,000 cells/mm² of epidermal surface area, and (c)
100% of the germinative cells of the epidermis enter the growth fraction instead of only 60% for normal subjects. The cell cycle in normal epidermis takes about 48 hours, whereas in psoriatic epidermis, it is approximately 24 hours, demonstrating a twofold rather than an eightfold acceleration.

The source of the cycling cells in the suprabasal layers of the epidermis is not well defined. They could be an expanded population of TAC because they express K1/K10 and predominantly K6/K16 keratins and not K5/K14 as basal keratinocytes do.
Recent studies suggested that psoriatic epidermis shows aberrant expression of apoptosis-related molecules representing suppressed apoptotic process, which might be related to the proliferative characteristic of the epidermis in this disease.
Keratinocyte Differentiation
Keratinocytes undergo the process of differentiation as they migrate upward through the epidermis from...
Immunopathology
Immunologic factors play a very important role in the pathogenesis of psoriasis. Psoriasis is now regarded as a disease of the immune system.
CD4+ T cells produce a variety of cytokines, including interleukin-2 (IL-2), tumor necrosis factor-a (TN Fa), and γ-interferon (γIFN), which is also produced by CD8+ T lymphocytes.
Keratinocytes stimulated by TNFα may produce IL-1ß, which is a potent T-lymphocyte and neutrophil chemoattractant.
Guttate psoriasis
Guttate psoriasis
yIFN is believed to play an important role in the initiation of psoriatic lesions as demonstrated by the induction of pinpoint lesions of psoriasis at sites of yIFN injection in previously uninvolved skin.
yIFN induces the expression of the ICAM-1 in keratinocytes and endothelial cells. This molecule mediates ...
not to be responsive to the growth inhibition effects of yIFN, leading to their hyperproliferative state in the disease.
Increased expression of p53 and downregulation of Bcl-2, consistent with the dynamics of psoriasis, have
Pathogenesis of Localized Pustular Psoriasis
A relationship of pustulosis palmaris et plantaris with psoriasis is not generally accepted, although two facts favor a connection: an identical leukotactic factor has been found in both conditions.
Pathogenesis of Psoriasis and AIDS
There is evidence of the role of both CD8+ and CD4+ T lymphocytes and γIFN in the pathogenesis of psoriasis.
. Paradoxically, as T-helper cell counts decline, it appears that psoriatic lesions exacerbate until a preterm...
The immunodysregulation resulting from HIV infection may trigger psoriasis in those genetically predisposed.
Differential Diagnosis
Two histologic features are of great value in the diagnosis of psoriasis vulgaris: (a) mounds of parakeratosis with elongation of the rete ridges and parakeratosis, can be found also in chronic eczematous dermatitis, such as atopic dermatitis, nummular dermatitis, or allergic contact dermatitis, which then may appear to be "psoriasiform." However, the elongation of rete ridges is uneven. Although mild spongiosis, may treated lesions of psoriasis and in those with superimposed allergic contact dermatitis secondary to topical treatments.

Lichen simplex chronicus is considered in the differential diagnosis of fully developed psoriatic plaques. In contrast to psoriasis, it shows a hyperkeratosis, hydropic degeneration of the basal layer, elongation of the rete ridges, striking papillary acanthosis, and fibrosis of the papillary dermis with collagen bundles aligned perpendicular to the skin surface.

Seborrheic dermatitis may be very difficult to distinguish from psoriasis vulgaris, especially if overlap occurs. Accentuated spongiosis, accentuated parakeratosis with keratin plugging at the follicular ostia, and more irregular acanthosis are histologic features suggestive of seborrheic dermatitis.

Pityriasis rubra pi/aris shares some histologic features with psoriasis, namely, acanthosis and parakeratosis. However, it could be differentiated from psoriasis by the presence of PAS-positive granulomas, and the Kogoj spongiform pustule is highly diagnostic of the psoriasis group of diseases.
Guttate psoriasis
including Reiter's disease, histologically, typical spongiform pustules may occur also in pustular dermatophytosis, bacterial impetigo, pustular drug eruptions, and candidiasis, particularly if pustules are clinically present \(172\). Periodic acid-Schiff (PAS) and Gram stains are useful for distinguishing them from psoriasis. Periodic acid-Schiff-stained Munro microabscesses in psoriasis typically differ from Munro microabscesses in pustular eruptions, particularly...
Because of the clinical and, particularly, the histologic resemblance of the tongue lesions in pustular psoriasis with those seen in geographic tongue, it has been suggested that geographic tongue represents an abortive form of pustular psoriasis.
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