Pellagra
The word "pellagra" is derived from two Italian words, "pelle," meaning "skin," and "agra," meaning "sharp burning" or "rough." Although primarily ascribed to niacin (vitamin B₃) deficiency, other vitamin deficiencies or protein
malnutrition appear integral to the development of the pellagra symptom complex. Presenting as cutaneous lesions...
Three basic skin eruptions occur in pellagrins. The first is a photo-induced eruption that is intensely erythematous...
Histopathology
Psoriasiform epidermal hyperplasia with hyperkeratosis, parakeratosis, and a lymphocytic perivascular inflammatory cell infiltrate of the upper spinous layers, subcorneal pustulation localized to or in isolation from these areas, and folliculitis.
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Pathogenesis. A deficiency in urocanic acid caused by a reduction in histidine and histidase activity has been postulated as a possible mechanism of photosensitivity in pellagra; urocanic acid protects the skin from ultraviolet (UV) radiation.
Differential Diagnosis. The histopathology is similar to that of the nutritional dermatoses acrodermatitis...