
DERMATOLOGIC FORMULARY

New York Skin and Cancer Unit

SECOND EDITION

FRANCES PASCHER, M.D., Editor

DERMATOLOGIC FORMULARY

From the New York Skin and Cancer Unit,
Service of Dermatology

(Dr. Marion B. Sulzberger, Director)

FRANCES PASCHER, M.D., Editor

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A HOEBER-HARPER BOOK

DERMATOLOGIC FORMULARY

Formulary of the New York Skin and Cancer Unit

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Formulary of the Skin and Cancer Unit of New York
University Hospital and the Department of Dermatology
and Syphilology of the New York University Post-
Graduate Medical School

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PREFACE

The average modern text on dermatology will often devote several pages to the description, diagnosis, pathogenesis, and pathology of a skin disease, with at most only a line or two given to practical therapy. This scant attention to practical details of treatment is often a great handicap to the physician, who is, after all, most interested in bringing the proper therapeutic weapons to bear upon the skin diseases he is called upon to treat. One of our main purposes in publishing this Formulary is to serve the practitioner by listing the most tried and useful dermatologic prescriptions, together with the briefest and simplest explanations of their uses, indications, and contraindications. In addition, it is the objective of this booklet to supply a model dermatologic formulary from which other hospitals, clinics, and institutions can, according to their needs, select a longer or shorter list of standard preparations for the care of the multitudinous sufferers from skin diseases.

It is to be stressed that the preparations included in our Formulary are *not* the result of guesswork, *not* based on mere theories, *not* the selections of one man or even of a small group. They are the product of the actual composite experience gained by leading teachers of dermatology, who have since 1882 been treating sufferers from skin diseases in the largest paid outpatient service of dermatology in the world. It is to the knowledge and experience of all these skin specialists, past and present, emanating from almost every great school of dermatology in the United States, the Americas, and Europe, that our Formulary of today owes its scope and its substance.

Our Formulary Committee, under the able chairmanship of Dr. Frances Pascher, has worked indefatigably during more than five years in preparing for publication the wealth of practical experience included between these covers.

The enthusiastic reception of the First Edition of our Formulary indicates that it has proved itself as useful to other institutions as to our own, and as valuable to other practitioners as to the members of our own staff.

Not only the exhaustion of the First Edition and the continuing demand for copies, but especially the tremendous therapeutic advances of the last three years have impelled the publication of this newly and completely revised Second Edition of the Formulary of the New York Skin and Cancer Unit. It is my hope and conviction that it will even surpass the First Edition in practical usefulness.

New York, N.Y.

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INTRODUCTION

There can be no doubt that an adequate formulary is as essential to a well-equipped dermatologic unit as the Wood's light or the microscope or the grenz- and x-ray machines. Questions as to optimal size of such a formulary, essentiality of some medicaments, and the special needs of various clinics, however, cannot be resolved as readily. It is hoped that publication of the Skin and Cancer Formulary will shed some light on these problems and will prove to be of value beyond our walls.

The proposed formulary was designed to meet the needs of a large outpatient clientele and teaching clinic. To insure adequacy, it was felt that a sufficient number of medicaments had to be included to circumvent allergic and idiosyncratic reactions and to allow for the lack of uniformity of response of different individuals to a particular remedy. To satisfy the special needs of a teaching clinic, the formulary was expanded to allow for comparative studies and the development of some versatility. In selecting the individual items, thought was given to the stability, the sensitizing potential, the pH, the availability, the practical "consumer acceptance," and the cost — as well as to the efficacy of the drug. In some instances, regrettably, as in the choosing of certain antihistaminics, hormones, vitamins, and detergents, the Formulary Committee was perforce arbitrary, and it wishes to state clearly that it is well aware that many reputable pharmaceutical firms make preparations similar to those selected which would serve equally well.

The annotations are chiefly for the orientation of the dermatologists-in-training, and the younger members of the

staff. These are intended as a supplement to the didactic lectures on pharmacology and therapy, to the clinical instruction given in the various sections of the outpatient service and at the bedside, and to the standard texts devoted to dermatologic therapy.

Instructions to the pharmacist are included in those instances where ready reference is otherwise not obtainable and the dermatologist is likely to be called upon to supply the information. Copies of printed instructions issued to our patients, where these have proved useful, have likewise been incorporated. These are few in number for it has been found that explicit verbal instructions to the patient are generally more satisfactory.

The interest in the first published revision of the Dermatologic Formulary of the Skin and Cancer Unit on the part of pharmacists, fellow dermatologists, and other medical colleagues has been most gratifying to the members of the Formulary Committee and to the director and staff of the Skin and Cancer Unit. The continued spectacular strides in chemotherapy, particularly in the field of corticosteroids and antibiotics, has resulted in welcome advances in dermatologic management. The current additions, deletions, and revisions, both in topical and systemic therapy, are largely based on these developments.

Brooklyn, N.Y.

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PREFATORY NOTES AND ABBREVIATIONS

All staff members are requested to write out prescriptions or to use the titles supplied and to indicate the amount to be dispensed. The numbers are intended solely for index purposes.

The metric rather than the apothecary system has been employed in the formulation of topical agents. Powders are incorporated by weight and liquids by volume in compounding agents for topical use, in accordance with official practice. The total quantity for each preparation, however, has been expressed in units that can be readily transposed to the apothecary system, e.g. 120.0 cc. = 4 oz., or 30 Gm. = 1 oz., since the latter system is generally employed in packaging. Official formulas, on the other hand, have been written in terms of 1000 cc. or 1000 Gm. as given in the *Pharmacopeia*. Similarly, the quantity given for each proprietary preparation is the amount usually supplied for individual use. The doses indicated are those usually dispensed.

Unless otherwise designated:

U.S.P. refers to the XV revision of the *United States Pharmacopeia*, official December, 1955.

N.F. refers to the X revision of the *National Formulary*, published December, 1955.

N.N.R. refers to *New and Nonofficial Remedies*, 1956, and to supplements published subsequently in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

(R) = proprietary preparation

W/O = water-in-oil emulsions and creams

O/W = oil-in-water emulsions and creams

Alcohol (U.S.P.) = 95% dilution

Diluted alcohol (U.S.P.) = 50% dilution

q.s. = quantity sufficient

mcg. = microgram

e.s.u. = electrostatic unit

Numbers in the index refer to prescriptions, not pages.

SECTION I: TOPICAL REMEDIES

