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# CURRENT DERMATOLOGIC THERAPY

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It does happen, however, that dosage schedules are changed from time to time in the light of accumulating clinical experience and continuing laboratory studies. This is most likely to occur in the case of recently introduced products.

It is urged, therefore, that you check the manufacturer's recommendations for dosage, especially if the drug to be administered or prescribed is one that you use only infrequently or have not used for some time.

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The latest and best estimates indicate that at least sixty million, six hundred thousand patients in the United States are afflicted with skin diseases sufficiently serious to need the attention of a physician. Moreover, the available figures show that about two of every three patients who seek out a physician because of some skin trouble go to a non-dermatologist.

When one contemplates these statistics and takes into account the recent and increasing upsurge in the number of primary care physicians and family practitioners, it is not astonishing that quite a few new texts on dermatology have appeared in recent years. Some of these texts are encyclopedic, running to thousands of pages; and some are so detailed that they cannot be compressed into a single volume. Such texts are excellent reference books for the specialist in dermatology but contain more about basic science and esoteric matters than the non-dermatologist practitioner can master or needs to know. There are several recent brief textbooks that confine themselves largely to the practical aspects of diagnosis and management of skin diseases, but as far as I know, each of these short texts is written by a single author and therefore gives the opinion and advice of only one specialist.

*Current Dermatologic Therapy*, edited by Stuart Maddin, is a completely revised and up-to-the-minute version of Dr. Maddin's successful *Current Dermatologic Management*. It is a comprehensive, eminently practical treatise on the diagnosis and treatment of cutaneous disease. It is a "how to" book—it tells the reader how to diagnose and how to manage skin diseases. *Current Dermatologic Therapy* gives precise and clear descriptions of the steps and measures the practitioner needs to employ, with sufficient attention to the "why" of each approach to make clear the reasons behind each "what to do."

In contrast to other texts with similar objectives, Dr. Maddin's book is not confined to the opinions and methods of a single author, but presents the practical measures employed by authorities selected because of their expertise in the management of the particular skin conditions they discuss. Stuart Maddin has gathered between the covers of this single volume the knowledge and experience of nearly two hundred experts selected from countries throughout the world.

Those who need to know just how to recognize and manage skin diseases today will find no other text that gives so much practical guidance with so little unnecessary abstruse detail.

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It is no longer possible for one, or even several, physicians to lay claim to treatment expertise encompassing the many facets of dermatology. We feel that a multi-authored format serves a practical clinical need in this discipline, as demonstrated by the success of two editions of *Current Dermatologic Management*. In this work we are most fortunate to have contributions from more than 190 of our colleagues, each writing in his or her particular field of interest.

Scientific developments in dermatology have been paralleled by changes in dermatologic therapy. In the past few years many new drugs have been introduced, and old drugs and techniques are being used in new ways. Each medication has its own indications, dosages, and side effects. All of this information, essential to the practicing physician, is already available but scattered throughout the literature. *Current Dermatologic Therapy* represents a distillation of the information in a convenient and practical form.

Each clinical presentation is concise, with emphasis on problem areas so that it may be consulted by the physician when faced with an immediate problem. This book is not a descriptive clinical text, but we have included the significant clinical and laboratory features together with photographs so as to delineate more effectively the characteristic features of each entity. The practical bias of the therapeutic section, together with the information on side effects, contraindications, and precautions, will also make this a handy desk-side reference. Moreover, we have also included up-to-date references to serve as a starting point for further, more leisurely, reading.

Apart from the discussion of the treatment of specific disease entities, the book contains sections dealing with particular treatment regimens, including discussions of the current status of various treatments of a single disease, such as methotrexate and PUVA for psoriasis, as well as the place of a treatment modality, such as plasma exchange, in dermatology as a whole. The section on medications used in the treatment of skin disease includes pharmacology, indications, side effects, and dosage schedules for each drug, with appropriate references, as well as information on newer and promising drugs.

We hope this presentation of the rapidly expanding field of dermatologic therapeutics will be of value not only to practicing dermatologists but indeed to all physicians who treat diseases of the skin.

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