

CHAPTER 3 DEFINITIONS

This chapter covers the terms which are used to describe changes in the skin.

Inflammation

Inflammation is a visible reaction resulting from injury to the cells. The injury can be caused by infection, allergy, poison, heat, or cold. The four signs of inflammation are:

Redness—due to dilated blood vessels,

Warmth—due to increased blood flow,

Pain—due to irritation of the nerves, and

Swelling—due to accumulation of fluid.

Inflammation of the skin is commonly called “*dermatitis*” (*der-ma-ti’-tis*). When the full thickness of the skin is inflamed, it is called “*cellulitis*” (*cel-u-li’-tis*).

Pruritus (pru-ri'-tus)

Pruritus is an intense itching that sometimes is a symptom of skin disease.

“Jock Itch”

“Jock Itch” is a slang term used to describe an itching dermatitis of the groin. It is often, but not always, caused by fungi.

“Athlete’s Foot”

“Athlete’s Foot” is a slang term used to describe a dermatitis of the skin of the feet. It is often, but not always, caused by fungi.

“Jungle Rot” or the “Crud”

These terms are useless slang terms. They are used to describe many unrelated skin diseases.

Abrasion (a-bray '-shun)

An abrasion is an injury that results in a loss of skin that extends into the dermis. The skin loss can occur if you scratch your skin too hard or if you scrape your knee or knuckle. Bleeding generally results when you first injure yourself. An abrasion can be very tender to the touch.

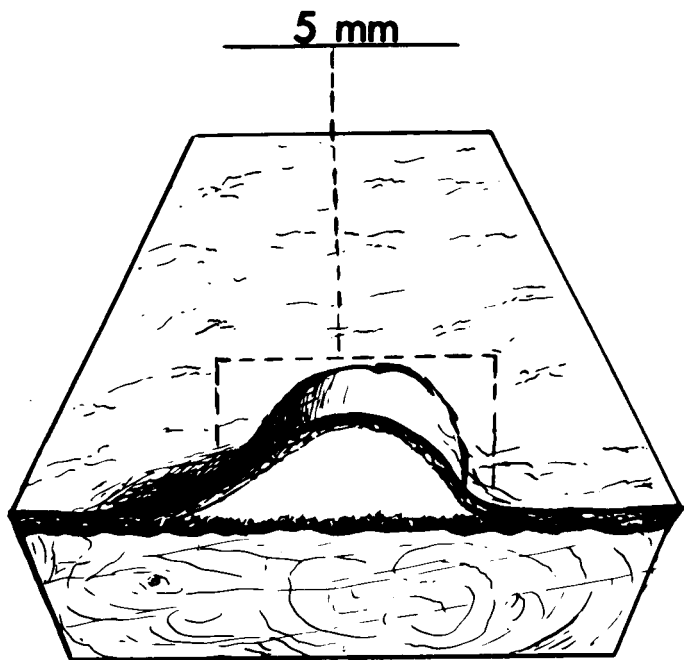
Lesions

Lesions are local, abnormal changes in the skin which can be detected by sight or touch. They are categorized into primary and secondary lesions.

PRIMARY LESIONS-BASIC SIMPLE SKIN LESIONS

Vesicle (ves'-i-kul)

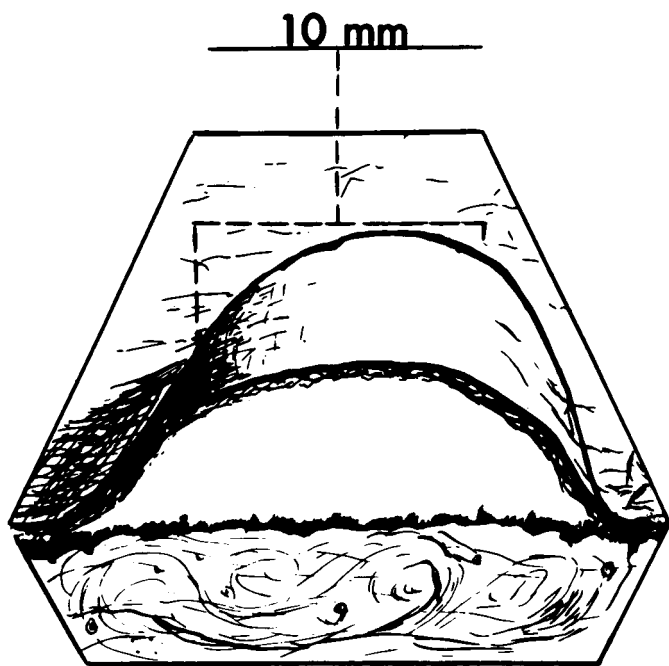
A vesicle is a small blister; a small, raised area of skin filled with a clear fluid, one-fifth inch (5 millimeters) in size or less. Fever blisters are examples of vesicles.



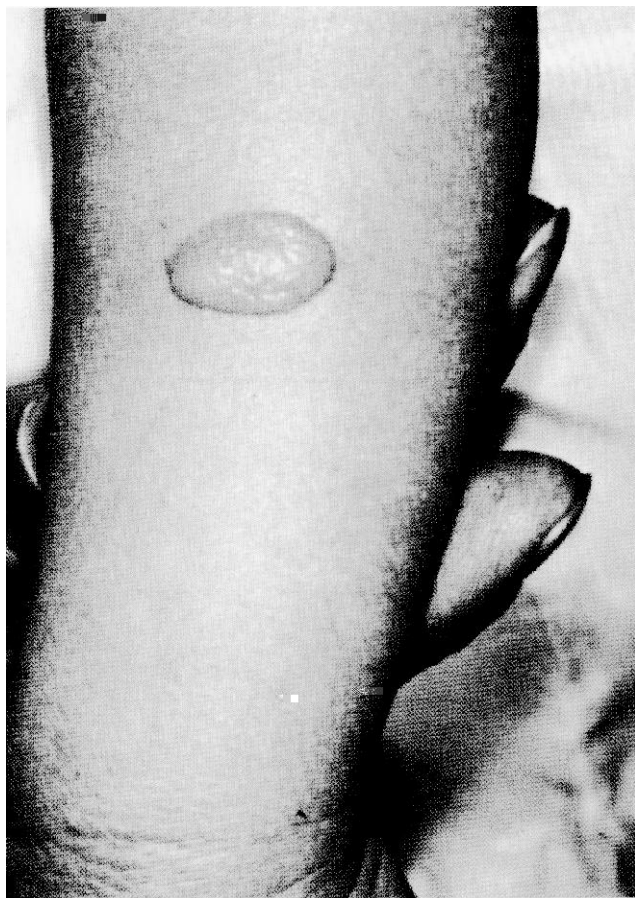
Vesicle.

Bulla (bul'-ha)

A bulls is a large blister over one-fourth inch (6 millimeters) in size. Burn blisters are examples of bullas.



Bulla.

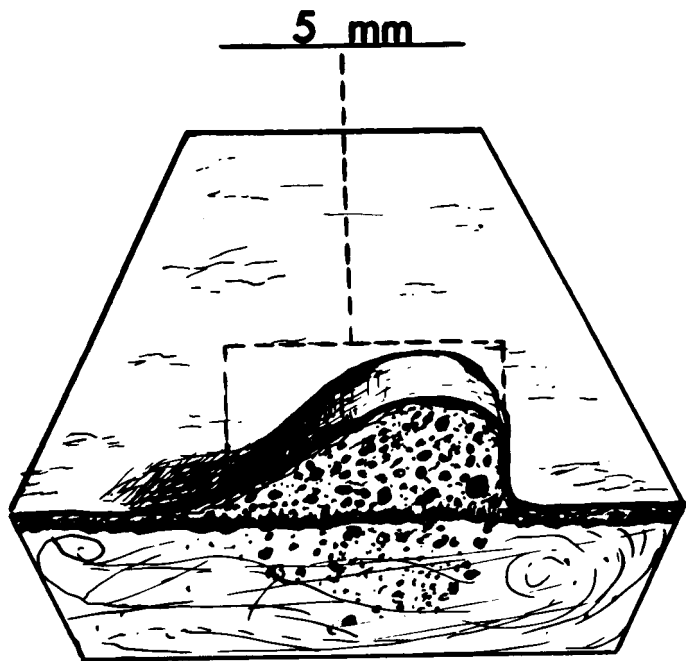


Flea Bite.

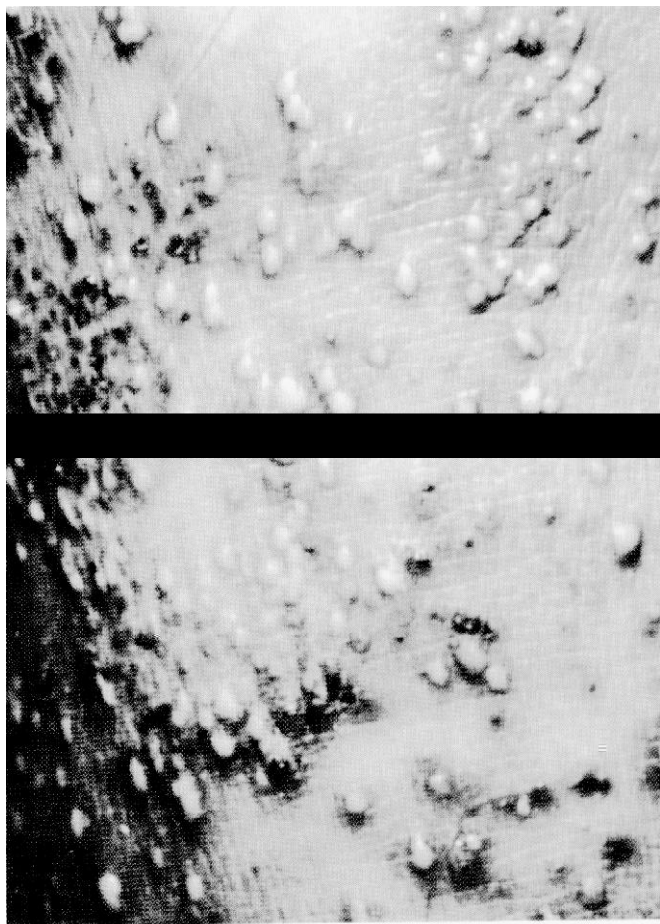
This photograph illustrates a bulla that has formed after a flea bite.

Pustule (pus'-tyule)

Pustules are small raised areas of skin filled with pus instead of clear fluid.



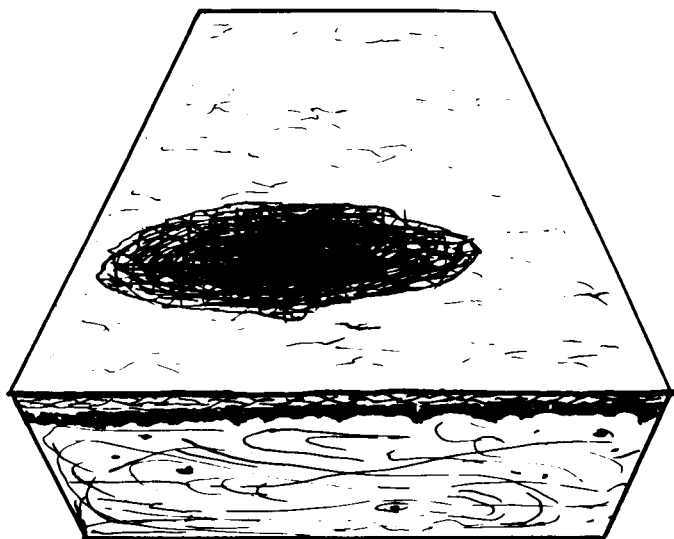
Pustule.



Pustules.

Macule (mack'-yule)

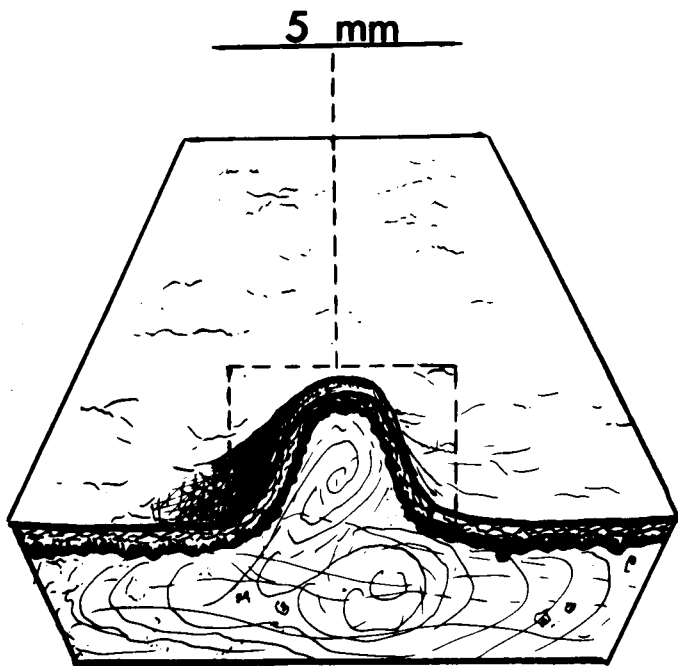
A macule is a flat spot, not above or below the skin surface; it cannot be felt (palpated). However, a change in skin color to red, blue brown, black, or white can be seen. Freckles are examples of macules.



Macule.

Papule (pap'-yule)

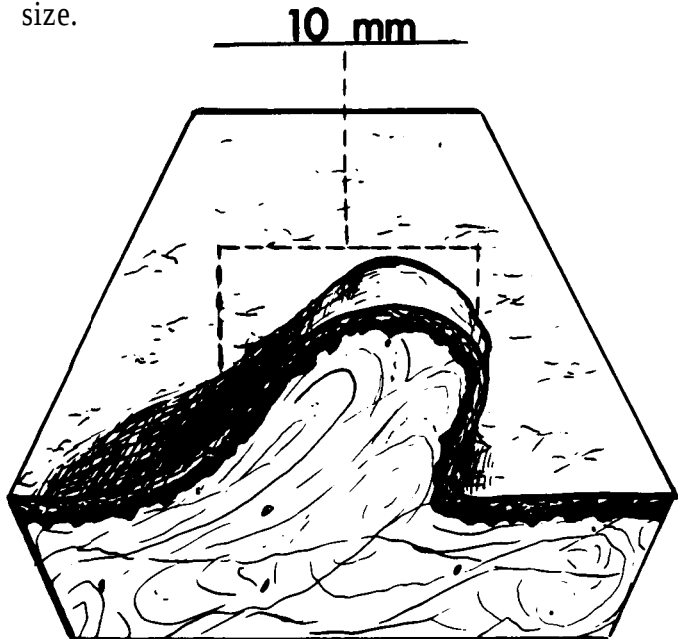
A papule is a solid elevation or lump in the skin one-fifth inch (5 millimeters) in size or less. "Bumps" or "hickeys" of acne are examples of papules.



Papule.

Nodule (nod'-yule)

A nodule is a solid elevation or lump in the skin over one-fourth inch (6 millimeters) in size.



Nodule.

SECONDARY LESIONS

A skin lesion which results from or complicates a primary skin lesion is a secondary lesion.

Erosion (e-row'-shun)

An erosion is a superficial loss of skin, (it involves only the epidermis) that occurs

without bleeding. Often, a vesicle breaks and its base becomes an erosion.

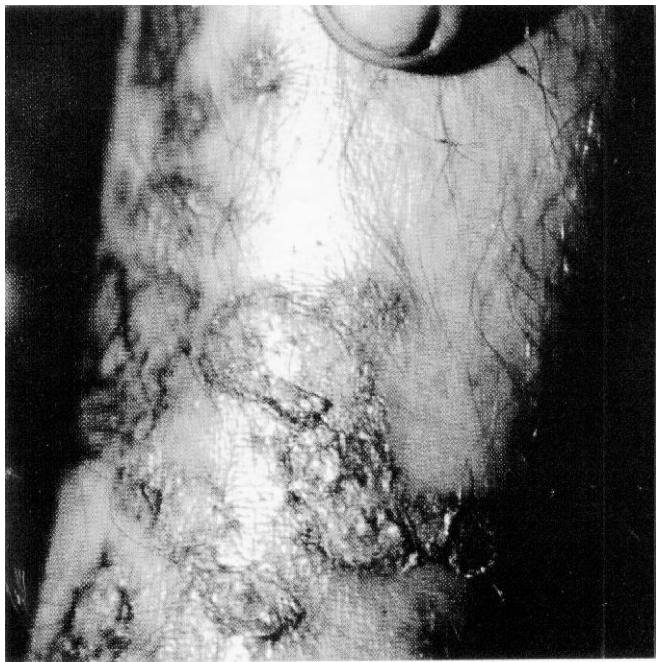
Crust

A crust is a scab and a collection of materials, including pus, blood, serum, dead cells, dirt, and bacteria all packed together in a mass. A crust forms after a blister or bull breaks, or after a cut, scrape, or scratch becomes infected.

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Crusts on healing fungal infection.

Crusts on healing fungal infection.



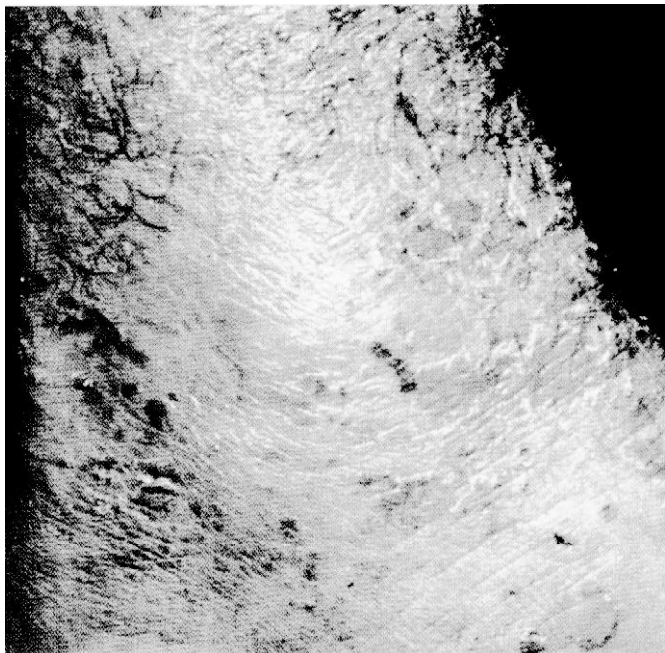
Crusts on healing fungal infection.

Scales are pieces of stratum corneum and other dry skin surface materials. Some scales are loose and flake off easily, such as is seen following a mild sunburn or in dandruff. Other scales are tightly attached and are seen in certain fungal infections and in other inflammations, particularly as the skin is healing.

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Scales on fungal infections.

Scales on fungal infections.



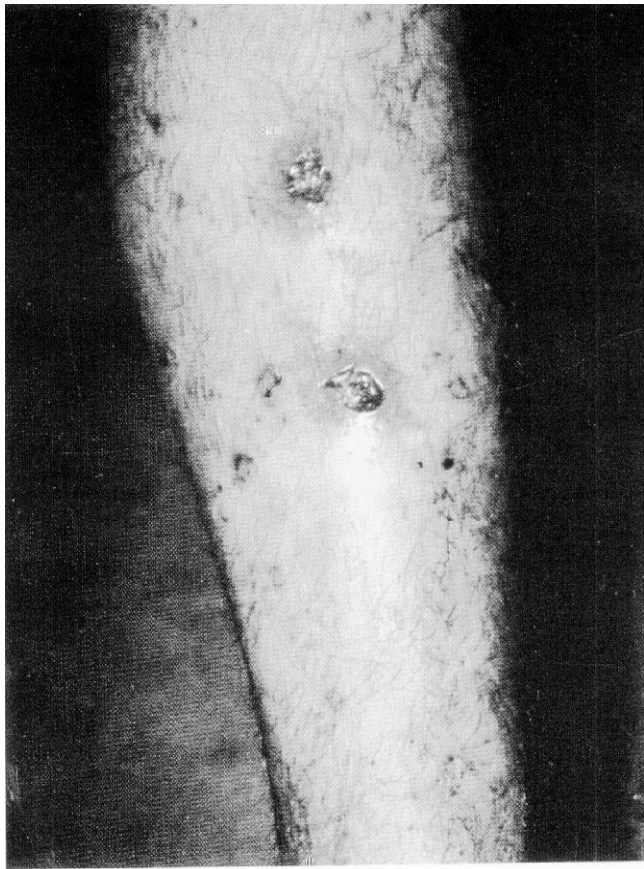
Scales on fungal infections.

Ulcer

An ulcer is a deep sore extending through the stratum corneum and epidermis into the dermis. An ulcer usually heals slowly, leaving a scar.

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Two small ulcers.



Two small ulcers.