



The Royal College of **Pathologists**
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Diploma examination

Dermatopathology: First paper

Tuesday 23rd March 2010

Candidates must answer FOUR questions ONLY

Time allowed: 3 hours

1. Give a detailed account of the role of oncogenic viruses in the pathogenesis of skin tumours.
2. Explain the practical and controversial aspects of sentinel lymph node biopsy in the management of cutaneous melanoma.
3. Write short notes on **all** of the following;
 - a) The clinical-pathological features of eccrine porocarcinoma
 - b) Epithelioid angiosarcoma
 - c) Proliferative nodules in melanocytic naevi
 - d) Establishing a diagnosis of folliculotropic mycosis fungoides

Please turn over for Questions 4 & 5

4. Discuss the range of sebaceous tumours that may be encountered in Muir-Torre Syndrome paying particular attention to immunohistochemical and molecular analysis in this condition.

5. Review the clinicopathological features of the non-X histiocytoses.



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1. Discuss the concept of hair follicle tumours that show hair germ differentiation (excluding basal cell carcinoma). Describe their clinicopathological features and differential diagnoses, particularly emphasising how you differentiate them from basal cell carcinoma.

2. Write short notes on the clinicopathological features of **all** of the following;
 - a) Desmoplastic melanoma
 - b) Animal-type (pigment synthesising) melanoma
 - c) Primary cutaneous CD4+ small/medium pleomorphic T cell lymphoma
 - d) Subcutaneous panniculitis-like T-cell lymphoma

Please turn over for Questions 3, 4 & 5

3. What do you understand by the term 'acantholytic dyskeratosis'? Give an account of the clinicopathological and genotypic features of the dermatological conditions that are characterised by acantholytic dyskeratosis.

4. Write short notes on the clinicopathological features of **all** of the following;
 - a) Secondary syphilis
 - b) Scleromyxoedema
 - c) Superficial granulomatous pyoderma gangrenosum
 - d) Chronic graft versus host disease

5. Discuss the histological and immunohistochemical pitfalls in making a diagnosis of atypical fibroxanthoma. Discuss in the context of the appropriate differential diagnosis.



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Dermatopathology: First paper

Tuesday 24 March 2009

Candidates must answer FOUR questions ONLY

Time allowed: 3 hours

- 1 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Methods of identifying mycobacteria in tissue sections
 - b) The role of CD34 immunostaining in the diagnosis of cutaneous tumours
 - c) Immunofluorescence findings in paraneoplastic pemphigus
 - d) The value of an elastin stain in dermatopathology

- 2 Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of participating in a specialist dermatopathology external quality assurance scheme.

- 3 Give a detailed account of tumours that may involve the nail apparatus. Comment on any particular difficulties encountered in the diagnosis of tumours at this particular site.

Please turn over for Questions 4 & 5

- 4 Write short notes on the following:
- a) The significance of CD30 positivity in a dermal lymphoid infiltrate
 - b) The use of tissue microarrays in dermatopathology
 - c) The value of T-cell receptor gene analysis in dermatopathology
 - d) Fluorescent in-situ hybridisation in dermatopathology
- 5 Discuss the proposition that the detailed classification of adnexal tumours is irrelevant.



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Dermatopathology: Second paper

Tuesday 24 March 2009

Candidates must answer FOUR questions ONLY

Time allowed: 3 hours

- 1 Discuss the clinical and histological spectrum of pustular skin eruptions. In your answer pay particular attention to the histological clues that assist in arriving at a differential diagnosis.

- 2 Write short notes on the following:
 - a) Aluminium granuloma
 - b) Glomeruloid haemangioma
 - c) Calciphylaxis
 - d) Nephrogenic fibrosing dermopathy

- 3 Discuss the histopathological spectrum of 'dermatopathological emergencies'

- 4 Give a detailed account of the spectrum of benign melanocytic entities that may mimic early melanoma.

Please turn over for Question 5

5 Write short notes on the following:

- a) Necrolytic migratory erythema
- b) Primitive polypoid granular cell tumour
- c) Cutaneous perineurioma
- d) Interstitial granulomatous dermatitis



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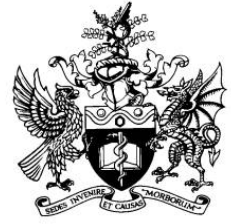
Dermatopathology: First paper

Tuesday 18 March 2008

Candidates must answer FOUR questions ONLY

Time allowed: 3 hours

1. Describe how you would assess and try to establish a definitive diagnosis in a patient with a dense cutaneous lymphoid infiltrate.
2. Write short notes on the following:
 - (a) Informed patient consent
 - (b) Tissue banks
 - (c) Concepts of growth phase in melanoma
 - (d) The distinction of capsular naevus from melanoma in a sentinel node
3. Write short notes on the following:
 - (a) The immunobiology of the epidermal Langerhans cell
 - (b) The composition and structure of the epidermal basement membrane
 - (c) The association between filaggrin mutations and cutaneous disease
 - (d) Diseases associated with an excess of dermal mucin
4. Discuss the role and function of a Dermatopathologist working in a cancer centre.
5. Give a detailed and critical account of our current attempts to classify and predict the behaviour of Spitz tumours.



The Royal College of Pathologists

Diploma examination

Dermatopathology: Second paper

Tuesday 18 March 2008

Candidates must answer FOUR questions ONLY

Time allowed: 3 hours

1. Give an account of the clinicopathological features of primary cutaneous tumours which are characterised by granular cytoplasm.
2. Write short notes on the clinicopathological features of:
 - (a) Scleredema (of Buschke)
 - (b) Perniosis
 - (c) Nephrogenic fibrosing dermopathy
 - (d) lichen striatus
3. Describe the clinicopathological features of cutaneous lesions that are associated with paraproteinaemia.
4. Write short notes on:
 - (a) CD4, CD56 haematodermic neoplasm
 - (b) Porokeratosis
 - (c) Cellular neurothekeoma
 - (d) Superficial acral fibromyxoma

Please turn over for question 5

5. Give the differential histological diagnosis of:

- (a) Eosinophilic spongiosis
- (b) Flame figures
- (c) Neutrophilic dermatoses
- (d) Follicular mucinosis



The Royal College of Pathologists

Diploma examination

Dermatopathology: First paper

Tuesday 27 March 2007

Candidates must answer FOUR questions ONLY

Time allowed: 3 hours

1. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of a multidisciplinary meeting for the management of melanoma and complex skin cancers.
2. Write short notes on:
 - (i) the role of electron microscopy in the diagnosis of skin disease
 - (ii) vertical versus transverse sections in skin biopsies in the diagnosis of alopecia
 - (iii) the use of immunocytochemistry in the diagnosis of melanoma
 - (iv) clinical indications and cases suitable for Mohs' surgery
3. Describe the molecular components of the epidermis and basal membrane zone that are relevant in the pathogenesis of autoimmune blistering diseases.
4. Discuss the importance of dermatopathology in the diagnosis of genetic skin diseases.
5. Discuss the relevance of cytogenetic studies in the diagnosis and classification of cutaneous soft tissue tumours.



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Diploma examination

Dermatopathology: Second paper

Tuesday 27 March 2007

Candidates must answer FOUR questions ONLY

Time allowed: 3 hours

1. Describe the clinical and histological manifestations of cutaneous sarcoidosis.
2. Write short notes on:
 - (i) actinic cheilitis
 - (ii) perforating collagenoses
 - (iii) sebaceous carcinoma
 - (iv) deep fungal infections
3. Faced with a biopsy from a patient with a clinical picture that is suggestive but not diagnostic of cutaneous lymphoma describe how you will examine the biopsy to attempt to achieve a final diagnosis?
4. You receive an excision biopsy of a pigmented lesion from the back of a middle-aged woman. What features will you take into account in your differential diagnosis and in particular which benign lesions may present clinically as darkly pigmented lesions?
5. Discuss the possible subtypes of cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma. How might this predict biological behaviour and how might this influence subsequent clinical management?