Dermatology

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chapter 4

Diagnostic pathways

This chapter presents a set of diagnostic flowcharts for some common signs in dermatology. Further flowcharts are included within individual chapters where appropriate.

We suggest that you use the flowcharts in tandem with clinical assessment, e.g. if you are asked to review a patient with blisters, use Figure 4.5 and follow the column with the closest matching clinical signs to reach a diagnosis.

These flowcharts do not deal with an exhaustive set of dermatological conditions but contain many of the common skin diseases that you will encounter in clinical practice.

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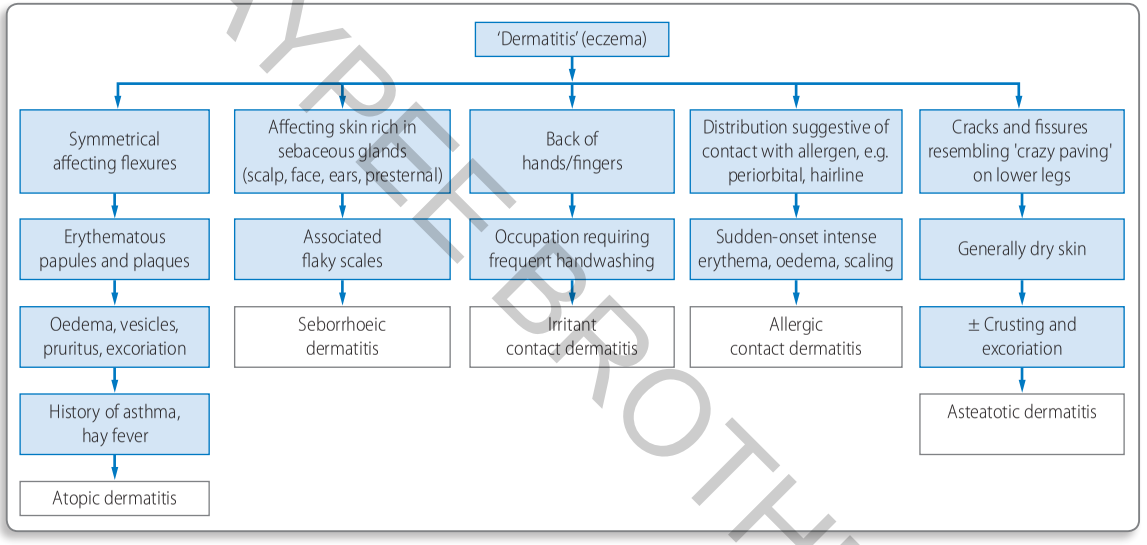

Figure 4.1 Dermatitis.

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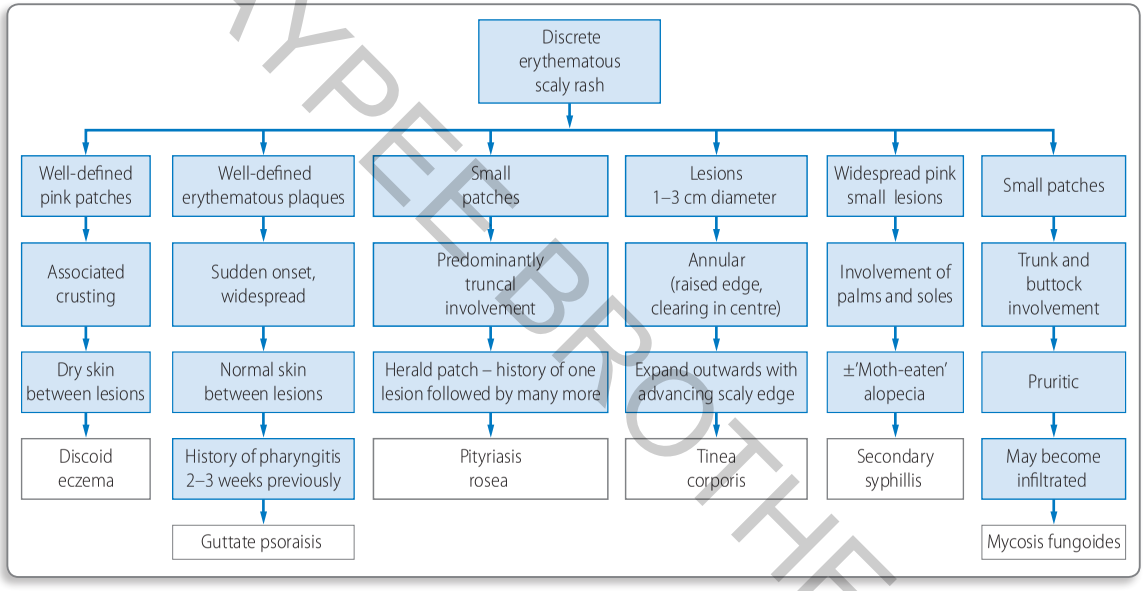

Figure 4.2 Discrete erythematous scaly rash.

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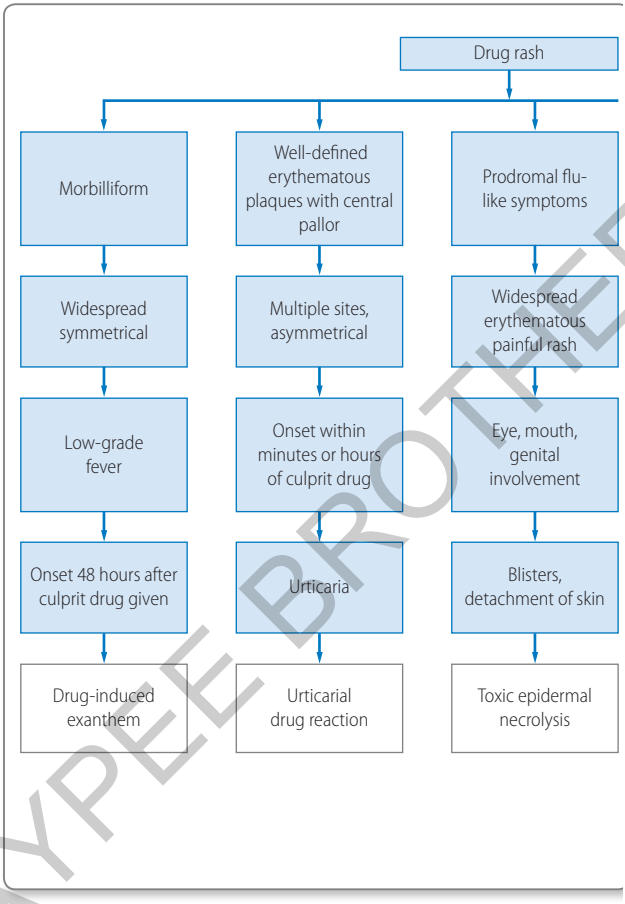

Figure 4.3 Drug rash.
DRESS, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms; LFT, liver function tests.

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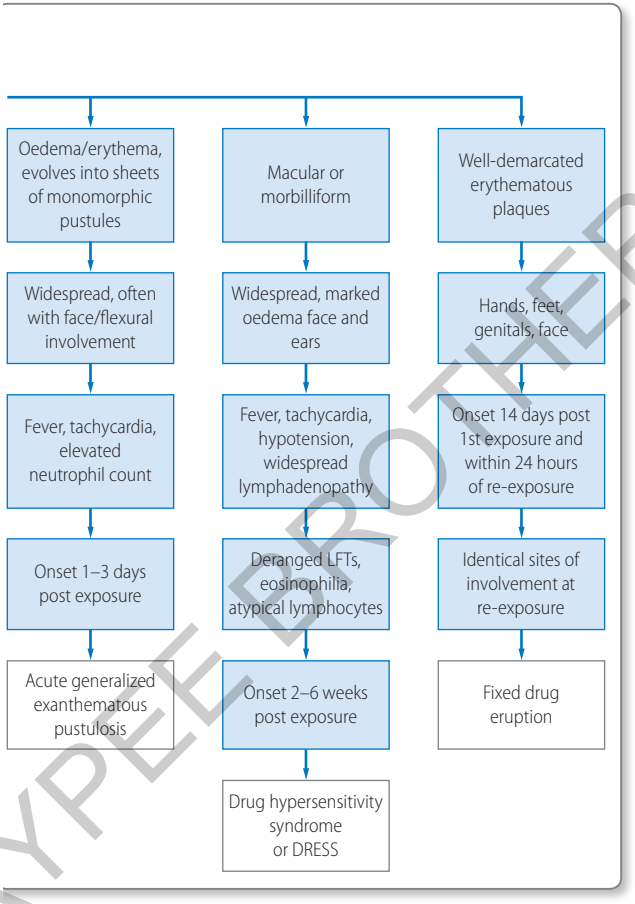

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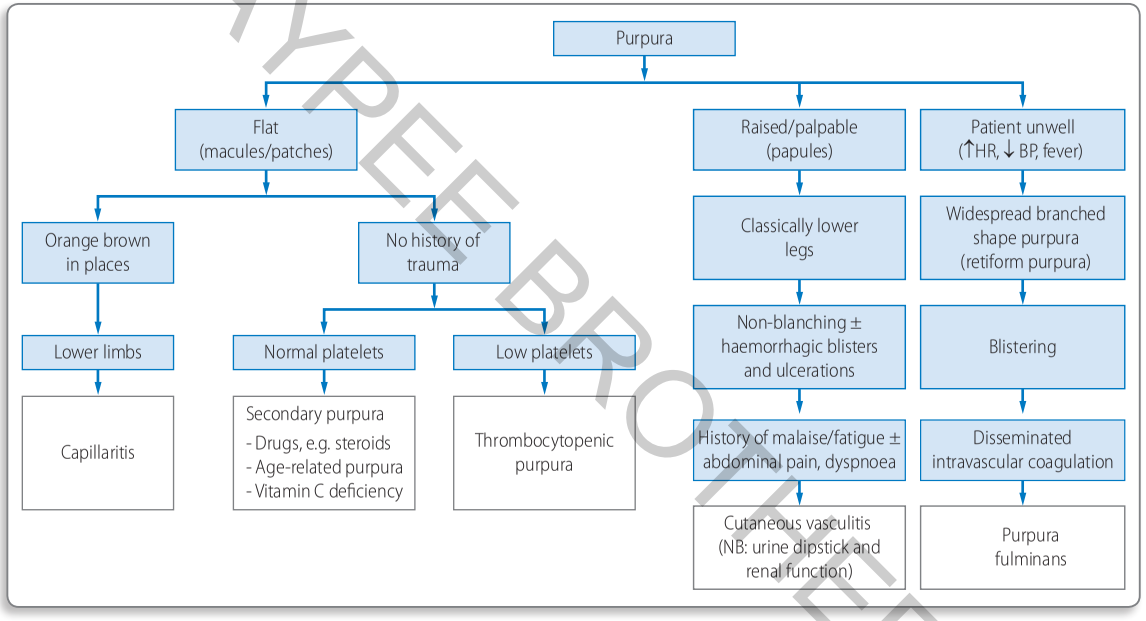

Figure 4.4 Purpura.
BP, blood pressure; HR, heart rate.

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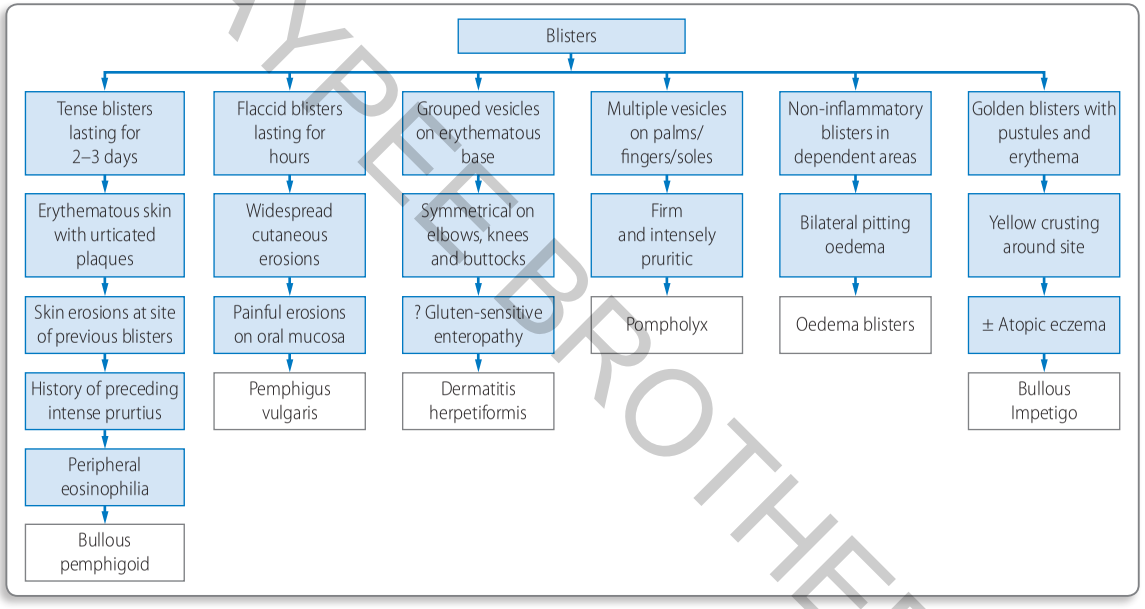

Figure 4.5 Blisters.

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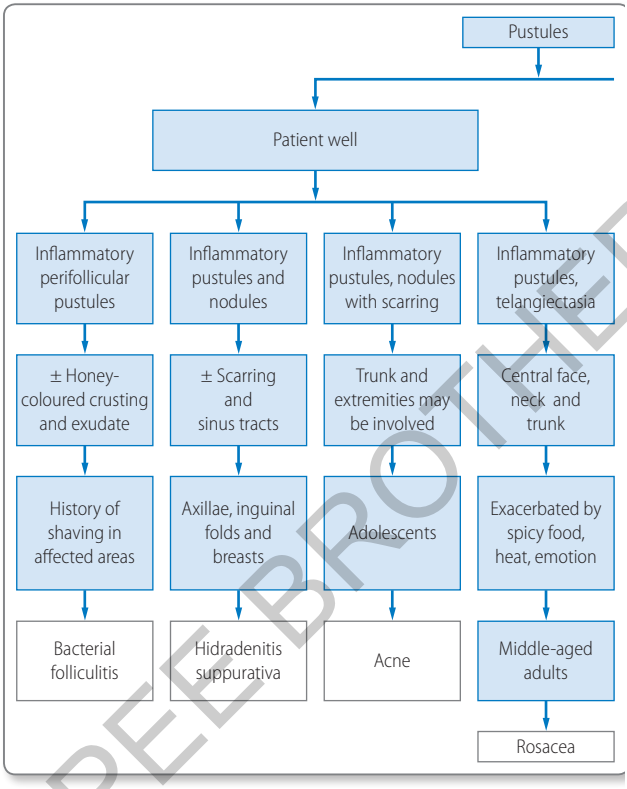

Figure 4.6 Pustules.
HR, heart rate.

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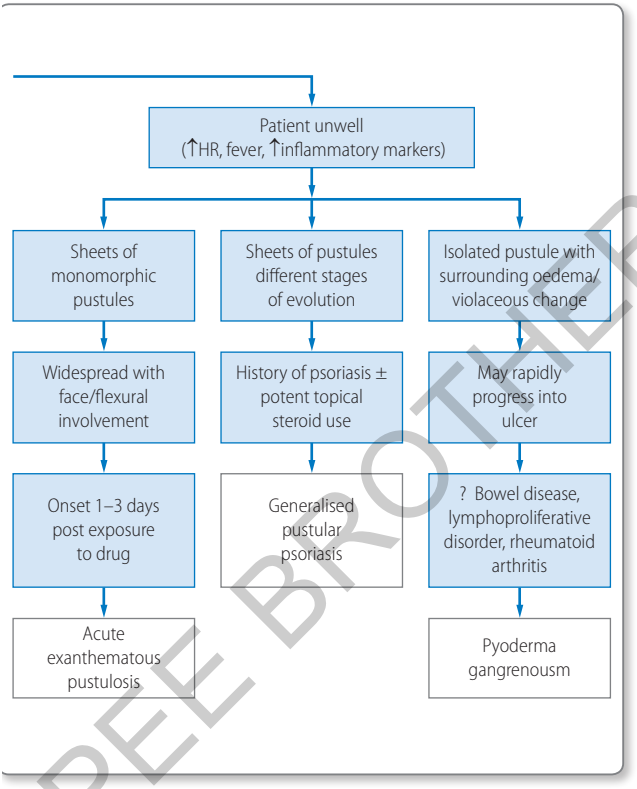

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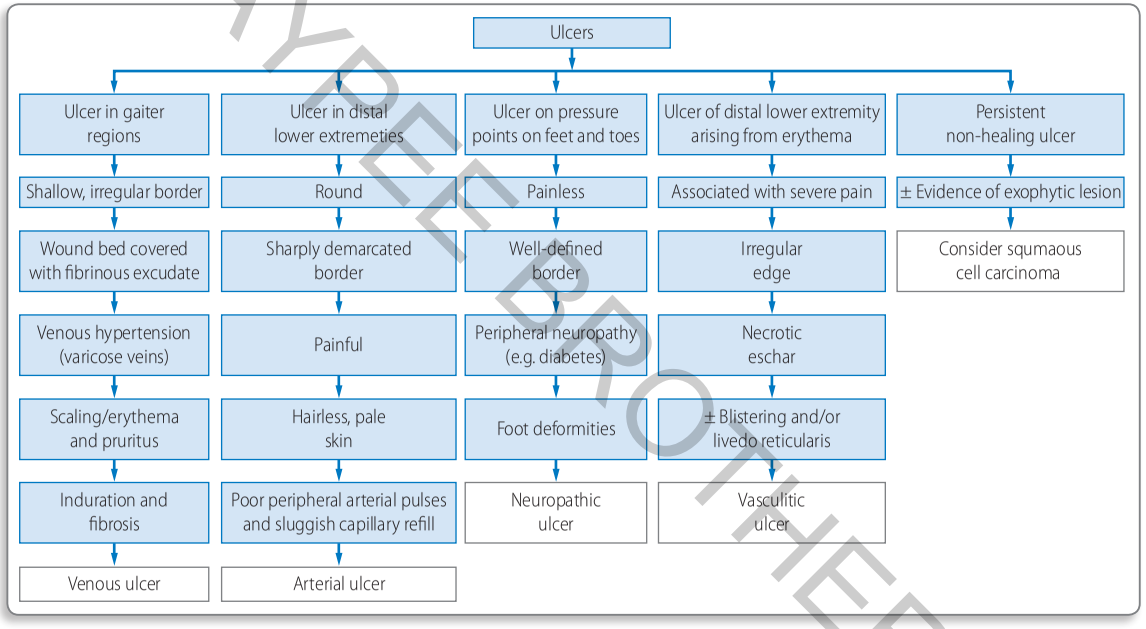

Figure 4.7 Ulcers.

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