



AFP in Practice questions are designed to get you started in a small group learning (SGL) activity in your practice or with colleagues. Requirements to earn 40 Category 1 CPD points for a SGL activity are: minimum of four and a maximum of 10 people, minimum of 8 hours of discussion in a year, and at least two GPs. Groups may include anyone else who has an interest (ie. practice nurses, community health workers, allied health professionals). A kit with all the instructions and forms you need is available at www.racgp.org.au/afpinpractice. You can also earn Category 2 points based on these questions at AFP practice challenge. Visit www.racgp.org.au/practicechallenge.

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Learning objectives

After completion of this activity participants will be able to:

- describe rashes using terms that your colleagues can understand
- examine your approach to the diagnosis or management of a common skin presentation
- prepare an outline of a patient information sheet on a common skin issue
- analyse your practice with regards to patient follow up after initial management of skin cancer
- identify useful clinical or referral resources.

Category 1 – SGL questions

Domain 1 – Communication skills and the patient-doctor relationship

ICPC code: S99

Communication skills include communication with colleagues. In the area of dermatology, one critical element of communication is describing a rash.

- Suggested learning activity: in pairs, have one person look at an image of a rash from this issue of *Australian Family Physician* and then describe that rash to their colleague. The colleague then states what they think the rash might be and tries to identify the image from AFP that was described. Then swap. Each person can have 2–3 turns at describing the rashes. Then as a group, discuss how often the description allowed each person to identify the rash in the image. If not, why? Is differing understanding of dermatological terms an issue? If so, as a group discuss and find out what they each mean.

Domain 2 – Applied professional knowledge and skills

ICPC codes: S77, S99

This issue of AFP reminds us of the diverse range of skin conditions, aetiologies and management options.

- Suggested learning activities:

Discuss as a group how you approach a diagnosis of a blistering rash. Focus particularly on how you consider a skin manifestation of a drug reaction. How would you decide if a drug reaction is a potential cause?

There are topical therapies that can be suitable for some skin cancers. As a group, locate or construct a table with the conditions and topical therapy options.

Domain 3 – Population health and the context of general practice

ICPC codes: S29, S80, S02

Sun damage and dry skin are very common skin problems.

- Suggested learning activities:

Prepare a talk on sun and the skin for a local group of retirees. You could initially start in pairs brainstorming what you would include. Then as a larger group compare the content. Agree on what to include and develop an outline. This could then be developed into a talk for the group, but could also be used as the basis of a patient information handout that could be used in your practice.

Dry skin is a common finding in clinical practice and can cause, or contribute to, pruritis. It is common to discuss management of dry skin with patients. In pairs, discuss what you might suggest to a patient presenting with dry skin that is contributing to their symptoms. Then as a larger group compare the content. Agree on what to include and develop an outline. This could then be developed into a patient information handout that could be used in your practice.

Domain 4 – Professional and ethical role

ICPC code: S77

Follow up after skin cancer is referred to in the article on melanoma by Chamberlain in this issue of AFP, and also in the article on basal cell carcinomas by Tomas.

- Suggested learning activity: consider the issue of follow up after skin cancer. Do you follow the *Melanoma clinical practice guidelines* referred to in the article? What are the guidelines? If you are not sure, can you locate them online? What are your practices regarding follow up after initial skin cancer management? How could they be improved?

Domain 5 – Organisational and legal dimensions

ICPC code: S77

Resource issues can affect clinical practice at many levels.

- Suggested learning activities:

Locate local options for management of skin cancers, such as in the case studies in the article by Tomas in this issue of AFP. Where are the local options for Mohs surgery? Where are the local radiotherapy services?

While dermoscopy can be very helpful in the diagnosis of skin cancers, it requires training and practise. What resources are available to support dermoscopy? For example, are there any websites or other resources you could use?