

Describing Dermatologic Lesions	
Primary Lesion	Description
Macule	Flat, not palpable; color change; <1cm
Patch	Flat, not palpable; color change; >1cm
Papule	Raised; <1 cm (implies epidermal process like a wart)
Plaque	Raised; >1 cm usual flat topped
Nodule	Raised; round-topped lesion w/ depth; >0.5cm up to 1 cm
Tumor	Very large, round-topped lesion w/ depth ; >1cm
Wheal	Edematous, raised, hive-like
Vesicle	Clear, fluid filled; <0.5 cm
Bulla	Clear, fluid filled; >0.5 cm
Pustule	Exudate filled; <1cm
Telangiectasia	Dilated superficial capillaries
Secondary Changes	Description
Scale	Flakes; thickening of outermost layer (stratum corneum)
Crust	Dried serous exudate
Desquamation	Loss of outermost layer of skin (stratum corneum)
Erosion	Loss of superficial layers of skin (epidermis only involved, does not scar)
Ulcer	Loss of deeper layers of skin (extends to dermis, scars)
Fissure	Deep linear cracks in skin
Atrophy	Thinning of skin
Excoriation	Erosions due to scratching
Lichenification	Thickened, leather-like skin due to habitual rubbing
Scar	Connective tissue alteration due to dermal damage
Color Descriptor	Description
Erythematous	Red
Purpuric	Violaceous color due to blood pigment
Petechial	Pinpoint, non-blanching; bleeding from capillaries
Hyperpigmentation	Darker than normal skin color
Hypopigmentation	Lighter than normal skin color