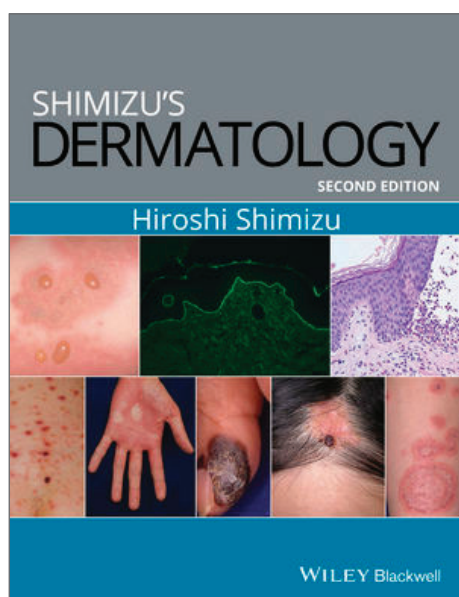


Shimizu's of Dermatology, the 2nd Edition

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Hiroshi Shimizu's Textbook of Dermatology was first published in 2007. Last year, he published the second edition of the book enriching the contents with high-quality clinical images and the latest information about clinical dermatology. While the first edition consists of 529 pages that compose of 29 chapters and contains more than 1000 high-qualified clinical pictures; the second edition has an additional 127 pages, another 1000 clinical images spread over a total of 28 chapters.

Brief appropriate explanations rather than long ponderous sentences, and high-quality clinical images help the reader gain a visual understanding of clinical dermatology. Writing this way is very convenient for anyone who is not fluent in English. This atlas-like clinical text is a must have for anyone involved in dermatological problems, including medical students, general practitioners, and trainee and fully-trained dermatologists.

The first six chapters encompass fundamentals of skin conditions covering the skin structure, physiology, diagnosis and treatment of skin diseases. A very impressive thing about this book is his description of skin structure and functions in the first chapter. I really enjoyed reading this and am using its contents in my lectures as they are written concisely and clearly. The second chapter covers the histopathology biopsy technique, and normal and abnormal pathological changes of the skin. The descriptions of histopathological changes, the skin lesions in Chapter 3, and dermatological approaches to diagnosis in Chapter 4 are well written and easily understandable for not only dermatologists, but also for undergraduate, postgraduate medical students.

Chapters 7-28 briefly describe each skin disease at the beginning of the chapter followed by a discussion of the pathophysiology, classification, clinical presentation, diagnosis, and treatment. The book has international content, for example, in Chapter 3 the author uses an illustration which is found in Russian or western-originated books and in Chapter 4 is found a Russian classification for prurigo in which it is divided into acute (infant), chronic (prurigo nodularis) and gestationis (purigo in pregnant women). These are different from that

found in Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in General Medicine [1] and Bologna's Textbook of Dermatology [2]. Furthermore, it contains highlighted key points and attractively formatted side-bars, which make the book's pages readable and attractive.

The remainder of the Chapter 3 and thereafter provide comprehensive information about the clinical features, pathogenesis, differential diagnosis, pathophysiology, and standard treatment of skin disorders with charts, tables, and photographs.

Most skin diseases are diagnosed by physical examination rather than laboratory or other additional tests. Because of this, dermatology textbooks full of pictures are the most helpful reference sources for those who are fully trained or are learning the specialty. Recognizing this, the second edition of Shimizu's book has many high-quality color photographs that are correlated with the relevant diseases' clinical symptoms. Furthermore, it shows the differences of the stages of skin diseases and their clinical variants in all chapters.

Most importantly, Shimizu's textbook contains a list of diagnostic criteria that are very helpful to make clinical decisions without expensive or unvalidated diagnostic methods. For example, in Chapter 8, the authors include diagnostic criteria for Stevens-Johnson syndrome, a life-threatening disease that requires prompt diagnosis and treatment. Having rapid access to these clearly stated diagnostic criteria can be life-saving. There are lists of diagnostic criteria for other rare skin conditions. For example, in Chapter 8 the list is found for Bechet's disease, in Chapter 11 for systemic lupus erythematosus, and in Chapter 12 for systemic sclerosis dermatomyositis and polymyositis. These lists make this second edition more valuable.

One noteworthy thing about this book are the many side-bars that include additional and relative information of skin diseases not otherwise mentioned in the text. They could aptly be renamed the "Media kit". These side-bars are found in all chapters and contain lots of interesting information about the epidemiology, causes and subtypes of skin diseases, as well as new laboratory tests, and the latest treatments. They make it easy

to find the information in this book, making the textbook useful daily for bachelor students, resident doctors, dermatologists and the subspecialties of dermatology.

The book has a few limitations. Because the descriptions of the pathogenesis and treatments are concise, they tend to lack references. In addition to this, the medication sections could have been more detailed, for example, containing the doses of drugs and how to monitor them. This is probably intentional, as the contents of this book are likely intended to invite further reading and understanding of related topics and are not intended to be solely relied upon for detailed treatment recommendations for health care practitioners. The reader is urged to review and evaluate the information provided in some part.

In summary, Shimizu's textbook is a great tool for medical professionals and students who are learning dermatology. The key strengths of the second edition of Shimizu's Textbook of Dermatology are that the diseases are nicely classified, include significant clinical variants, and their descriptions are organized and written reflecting their importance or frequency. In this new edition, the contents of the first edition were fully revised and clinical developments updated. There are twice as many photos of skin diseases and this greatly enhances new edition's usefulness. There is a new international classification of ichthyosis that is more accurate than the previous one. The organization of the chapters in the new edition is clinically focused based on their clinical features, pathological alterations and lab findings. The textbook provides readers with practical key points in side-bars and is very useful for not only dermatological residents but also experienced dermatologists.

References

1. Lowell A. Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in General Medicine. NY, USA: The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc; 2012. p 1-3328
2. Jean L. Dermatology. CT, USA: Elsevier Science; 2013. p 1-2527