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Wound Healing and Ulcers of the Skin

Diagnosis and Therapy –

The Practical Approach
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Diagnosis and Therapy – The Practical Approach

With 115 Figures and 25 Tables
Preface

In recent years, the amount of knowledge surrounding the processes of wound healing has significantly increased, resulting in a vast array of therapeutic options. The assortment of preparations currently available may become somewhat perplexing to physicians and medical personnel.

We have become aware of the difficulty involved in selecting the most appropriate therapy for a specific type of wound. Our main purpose in writing this book, therefore, is to present a step-by-step algorithmic approach to the treatment of chronic wounds.

The caring of wounds has always been the realm of the various branches of surgery. Dermatology, on the other hand, being the medical science that specializes in skin and cutaneous physiology, deals with the essential and fundamental aspects of wound healing. Due to its very nature, wound healing overlaps into the many disciplines of medicine in general. Internists, diabetologists, and geriatricians are becoming increasingly involved in the field of wound care. General practitioners and family physicians are frequently required to treat acute and chronic wounds.

In this book, we introduce the dermatologic perspective of wound healing which applies to the diagnosis of cutaneous ulcers, based on history, physical examination, biopsy, and laboratory tests. We also present a therapeutic approach to ulcers according to their appearance.

We believe that this guidebook will assist physicians in the treatment of chronic wounds, and that it will ultimately serve to reduce the immense suffering of those afflicted.

■ Note to the Reader. Neither the authors nor the publishers are liable for any consequences arising from the use of information presented in this book. The readers are advised to check for up-dated information provided by the manufacturers, including dosage and safety regulations, for each of the products described in this book. Ultimate responsibility rests with the treating physician.

Some of the chapters include lists of commercial names of preparations used in the healing of chronic ulcers. This is by no means intended as a commercial recommendation. It is simply intended to provide the readers with a guide to the range of brand names in use for a certain biologic substance. We have done our best to provide up-dated and accurate lists. However, this area is subject to frequent changes, and the readers are advised to gather information from other currently available sources.
Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank the following for providing this book with illustrations and pictures: Dr. Emanuela Cagnano for Figs. 12.1 (modified by Inanit Ashtamker as Fig. 1.1), 2.2, 6.1, 6.3, and 6.6; Dr. Oren Lapid for Figs. 12.3 and 12.4; Dr. David Vigoda for Fig. 12.5; Dr. Tidhar Steiner and the Semmelweis Museum of the History of Medicine for Figs. 3.5 and 3.6; Dr. Alex Zvulunov for Fig. 4.2; Dr. Kosta Mumcuoglu for Figs. 9.6–9.8; Professor Sima Halevy for Figs. 14.1–14.7; Audra J. Gera and Novartis for Figs. 2.6 and 3.9, from *Dermatology: A Medical Artist’s Interpretation*, copyright 1990 by Sandoz Pharma LTD; The Wellcome Library, London, for Figs. 3.1–3.4, 3.7, and 8.8; Taylor & Francis Publishing House for Fig. 8.6, reprinted from Jacobsson et al: A new principle for the cleansing of infected wounds. *Scandinavian Journal of Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery*, 10:65–72, 1976; Taylor & Francis Publishing House for Fig. 20.2, reproduced from *Handbook of Cosmetic Skin Care*, published by Martin Dunitz, 2001. Figure 18.1 is reprinted from T.J. Ryan: Wound healing and current dermatologic dressings. *Clinics in Dermatology* 8:21–29, copyright 1990, with permission from Elsevier Science; Fig. 2.5 is reprinted from Germain et al: Human wound healing fibroblasts have greater contractile properties than dermal fibroblasts. *Journal of Surgical Research* 57:268–273, copyright 1994, with permission from Elsevier Science; Fig. 18.2 is reprinted from *Dermatologic Therapy in General Practice*, by M. Sulzberger and J. Wolf, (p 116), published by The Year-Book Publishers, copyright 1943, with permission from Elsevier Science; Fig. 6.2 is reprinted from Falanga et al: The cutaneous manifestations of cholesterol crystal embolization, *Archives of Dermatology* 122:1194–1198, copyright 1986, with permission from the American Medical Association; Fig. 4.4 is reprinted from S.W. Graeca et al: A painful precursor for necrosis. *Postgraduate Medicine* 106:249–250, copyright 1999, with permission from Postgraduate Medicine (photographed by Scott Dornbaser). Fig. 6.4 is reprinted from J. Lima-Maribona et al: Self-assessment examination. *The American Academy of Dermatology Journal* 29:803, 1993, with permission from Mosby-Year Book, Inc.; part of Fig. 2.1 is reprinted from CIBA Clinical Symposia on common bleeding disorders, vol 35, no 3, p 8, copyright 1983, with permission from Novartis; part of Fig. 2.1 is taken from *Dermatology: A Medical Artist’s Interpretation*, copyright 1990 by Sandoz Pharma LTD.

Many thanks are due to the following for their assistance in the preparation of the text and for their valuable comments: Dr. Gary Zentner; Professor Ilana Harman-Bohem; Professor Pablo Yagupsky; Dr. Batya Davidovici; Dr. Marcelo H. Grunwald; Dr. Dafna Hallel-Halevy; and Dr. Emmilia Hodak. Our particular thanks go to all the reviewers of the chapters in this book for their efforts and assistance (see below); to Professor Sima Halevy, for advancing the field of wound healing in Soroka University Medical Center and for actively supporting the production of this book; to Mrs. Rina Ben-Zeev for her assistance in the preparation of the Appendix section of the book and for constructive collaboration at the Chronic Wound Clinic; to Dr. Alex
Acknowledgements

Zvulunov and Mr. Naftali Oron for their most valuable ongoing advice stemming from sheer wisdom and clear reason. We would like to especially thank Miss Kristina Hawthorne for contributing her vast experience in the production of books, for her creative ideas, and for her indispensable support and assistance throughout the whole course of this project.
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