

supplement, videodermatoscopy with a higher magnification than that of ELM was used, which made the diagnosis even clearer. The suspicious sites could be examined within a few minutes, and the procedure could be carried out without any discomfort to the patient. This shows that the technique could be used as a screening in any patient, including children

and elderly people, suffering from an atypical scaling skin disease. Employing this technique would prevent misdiagnosis of crusted scabies and thereby transmission of the ectoparasite to other persons. Also the infected person would benefit from getting the right treatment at the first consultation.

## References

1. Argenziano G, Fabbrocini G, Delfino M. Epiluminescence microscopy - a new approach to in vivo detection of *Sarcoptes scabiei*. Arch Dermatol 1997; 133: 751-753.
2. Brunetti B, Vitiello A, Delfino S, Sammarco E. Findings in vivo of *Sarcoptes scabiei* with incident light microscopy. Eur J Dermatol 1998; 8:266-267.

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## BOOK REVIEW

### Hans Rorsman, Alf Björnberg & Anders Vahlquist: *DERMATOLOGY VENEREOLOGY* Studentlitteratur, 2000

The sixth edition of Rorsman, Björnberg and Vahlquist's textbook on Dermatology and Venereology is now available. In contrast to the first editions it has now become a rather voluminous book, with 379 full-colour clinical pictures and a text that flows more fluently than in previous editions, where the language perhaps was somewhat compendium-like. The first thing that strikes you in opening this book is the photographs. They are brilliant, large, sharp and in colours that are true to nature, and they accompany and complete the written words so that the text can better be reduced. Seldom have I seen such high-quality photographs in a textbook, almost better than nature itself and therefore highly pedagogical.

The textbook is intended for Swedish medical students but I do not hesitate to recommend it to Danish students as well, even if it contains some more specifically Swedish terms and recommendations. General practitioners and even dermatologists will also find benefit and pleasure in reading this book.

The book includes pictures of rare conditions such as Lupus erythematosus of the eyelids, scar sarcoidosis, periocular dermatitis, hypertrichosis in porphyria cutanea tarda, disseminated granuloma annulare, glucagonoma

syndrome and many other rare skin diseases that every dermatologist would be proud to diagnose. The text is straightforward and sober but the therapeutic advice is sometimes rather nihilistic, which of course is a matter of taste. It is brave of the authors to show the callosities following surgical removal of plantar warts.

The index contains short descriptions of conditions not mentioned in the text, a charming oddity I have never seen in other textbooks.

A few critical comments, however, are justified. The pictures in the book are not always placed in close contact with the text, often ending up on the next page. In addition, the picture of pearly penile papules has been placed in a chapter dealing with *ulcus molle*, while its clinical description is found in the *balanitis* chapter. Text and picture should be moved to the *condylomata* section.

Despite these minor objections I warmly recommend this book to students, general practitioners and dermatologists.

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