Australasian College of Dermatologists

Course outline:
Practical Dermoscopy
Acknowledgements

The Practical Dermoscopy course has been developed by fellows of the Australasian College of Dermatologists. We particularly thank the dermatologists who have written and reviewed the course materials and supplied clinical and dermoscopic images, as well as facilitating the virtual clinic and face-to-face workshop:

- Dr Benjamin Carew
- Dr Alex Chamberlain
- Dr Martin Haskett
- Dr Chris Jalilian
- Associate Professor John Kelly
- Dr Jim Muir
- Dr Niyati Sharma
- Associate Professor Peter Soyer

The course development process has been managed by a GP Skin Cancer Task Force with the following college members:

- Dr Benjamin Carew
- Dr Daniel Hewitt
- Dr Simon Lee
- Dr Victoria Mar
- Dr Jim Muir
- Dr Adam Sheridan
- Associate Professor Peter Soyer

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1. Course information

1.1 Course aims

Australia has the highest rate of skin cancer in the world and the vast majority of this is treated within general practice. Crucial to management of skin malignancy is accurate diagnosis. Dermoscopy allows the detection of clinical features invisible to the naked eye and has been well shown to increase the diagnostic accuracy of users.

In the Practical Dermoscopy course, GPs put dermoscopy theory into practice and develop a thorough understanding of how dermoscopy can be used to manage patients with cutaneous neoplasia.

Practical dermoscopy is facilitated by leading dermatologists. It is delivered in a blended learning mode of self-paced online learning, an asynchronous virtual clinic which simulates the outpatients’ clinic online, and a one-day face-to-face workshop. Clinical scenarios are used extensively in the course. These will ensure that participants have a wide range of clinical experience on which to draw to manage their own patients.

1.2 Learning objectives (LOs)

At the successful completion of this course, you should be able to:

- LO 1: Systematically conduct a full-skin examination (K)
- LO 2: Use correct morphologic descriptors to describe features of skin lesions visible to the naked eye (A)
- LO 3: Explain the principles of using a dermoscope (K)
- LO 4: Explain the concept of dermoscopic-histopathology correlation (K)
- LO 5: Use correct dermoscopic terminology to describe skin lesions visible by dermoscope (A)
- LO 6: Discuss the significance of dermoscopic features of skin lesions (S)
- LO 7: Make a provisional diagnosis of skin lesions based on their morphological and dermoscopic features (A)
- LO 8: Formulate a first-step management plan based on a combination of clinical information, morphology and dermoscopic features of suspicious skin lesions (A)
- LO 9: Implement systems for monitoring and follow-up of patients with suspicious skin lesions (S) including management plans and electronic recalls

[Note: The outcomes address K (Knowledge), S (Skills) and A (Application of knowledge and skills)]

1.3 Learning and teaching activities

The course is organised into five components.

- Pre-learning activities: are completed prior to starting the course
- Self-paced online modules: There are six self-paced online modules. These cover the essential content and take you through the process of taking a skin history, conducting a full skin check, describing the visible features of skin lesions using morphological descriptors, understanding the
science behind dermoscopy, using dermoscopic descriptors to describe lesions, making a diagnosis and differential diagnosis and developing treatment and management options for patients with cutaneous neoplasia. The six modules are:

1. History, examination and lighting
2. Morphology of skin lesions
3. Science behind dermoscopy
4. Dermoscopy basics
5. Histopathologic correlation
6. Choice of biopsy method

• **Virtual Clinic**: GPs participate in the virtual clinic at the same time as completing the online modules. The virtual clinic simulates an outpatients’ clinic online. It is a very practical component of the course where participants put theory into practice. Real cases are posted and participants are challenged to provide a diagnosis and first-step management plan based on clinical information, clinical images and dermoscopy. Participants are expected to provide a solution to at least 15 cases that are posted as well as posting one of their own cases for discussion.

• **Workshop**: Participation in a one-day face-to-face workshop is available once the online modules are completed

• **Final Assessment**: The final assessment for the subject in an online 2-hour examination

Clinical scenarios are the main teaching and assessment tool across all learning modes of the course. They illustrate the essential content in the online modules. They are central to the virtual clinic where participants learn with peers from cases posted every 24-48 hours. They are an integral part of the face-to-face workshop and are used to assess the application of knowledge and skills in the end-of-topic tests and final examination.

1.3 **Teaching staff**

Teaching staff for the Practical Dermoscopy course include:

• Virtual Clinic – Dr Ben Carew and Dr Jim Muir

• Workshop – Dr Ben Carew, Dr Brian De’Ambrosis, Dr Paul Komarowski, Dr Jim Muir, Dr Simon Yong-Gee

Click on the link below for bios of teaching staff:

2. Course outline and structure

This course is delivered on a trimester basis. It is generally completed over 10-14 weeks.

The course consists of a total of approximately 30-50 hours of student effort. This is broken down into:

- 8 hours of face to face contact hours (ie workshops)
- 8-15 hours of online/self-directed learning
- 10-20 hours virtual clinic
- 10 hours assessments

The table below provides estimated student effort hours allocated to each topic:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Related LO</th>
<th>Estimated student effort</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Subject introduction</td>
<td>• Online/self-directed learning module&lt;br&gt;• Pre-learning questionnaire about what you are hoping to achieve in studying this subject&lt;br&gt;• Pre-learning quiz about what you already know about dermoscopy</td>
<td>LO1-9</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History, examination and lighting</td>
<td>• Online/self-directed learning module&lt;br&gt;• Online end of topic test&lt;br&gt;• Additional reading</td>
<td>LO1</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morphology of skin lesions</td>
<td>• Online/self-directed learning module&lt;br&gt;• Online end of topic test&lt;br&gt;• Additional reading</td>
<td>LO2</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science behind dermoscopy</td>
<td>• Online/self-directed learning module&lt;br&gt;• Online end of topic test&lt;br&gt;• Additional reading</td>
<td>LO3, 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dermoscopy basics</td>
<td>• Online/self-directed learning module&lt;br&gt;• Online end of topic test&lt;br&gt;• Additional reading</td>
<td>LO3, 5 &amp; 6</td>
<td>4 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Histopathological correlations</td>
<td>• Online/self-directed learning module&lt;br&gt;• Online end of topic test&lt;br&gt;• Additional reading</td>
<td>LO2, 4, 5, 6, 7</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Choice of biopsy method
- Online/self-directed learning module
- Online end of topic test
- Additional reading

| LO9 | 2 hours |

### Virtual clinic
- Cases are posted every 24-48 hours over a 10-12-week period. Students are expected to post solutions to each case
- Students are also expected to post one case of their own
- Additional reading

| LO 1-9 | 10-20 hours |

### Face-to-face workshop
- One-day weekend workshop
- Skills assessment and quiz

| LO1-9 | 8 hours |

### Final assessment
- Preparation for final assessment
- 2 hour online examination consisting of 20 cases

| LO1-9 | 5 hours |

## 3. Assessment

### 3.1 Assessment tasks

In order to qualify for the ACD Certificate of Practical Dermoscopy students must complete all following five assessment tasks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Course requirement</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A1</td>
<td>Online modules</td>
<td>Achieve 80% pass mark in all modules</td>
<td>5 hours</td>
<td>LO1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2</td>
<td>Virtual clinic participation</td>
<td>≥15 discussion posts to virtual clinic</td>
<td>10-20 hours</td>
<td>LO1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A3</td>
<td>Submit own case to virtual clinic</td>
<td>≥1 case posted to the virtual clinic</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>LO1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A4</td>
<td>Workshop self-reflection and assessment</td>
<td>Complete workshop self-reflection and assessment</td>
<td>1 hour</td>
<td>LO1-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A5</td>
<td>Final course examination</td>
<td>Achieve 70% pass mark</td>
<td>2 hours</td>
<td>LO1-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3.2 Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

Be sure to provide a list of references whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research to inform your own work. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism.

4. Readings and resources

Please download the separate Recommended Resources List in the course information area. You can also access the resources within each separate module.

5. Administrative matters

All information related to the course is on the College's elearning portal including policies and guidelines. For further information or questions about the course, please contact gpderm@dermcoll.edu.au.