

Sound alike conditions in dermatology

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Abstract Many entities in dermatology have terminologies that sound-alike, look-alike or named after same person. This resemblance makes understanding the difference between diseases cumbersome. This list earmarks some of the most commonly confused entities by name and provides clinical description and relevant facts.

Key words

Sound-alike, look-alike, conditions in dermatology, disease, terminologies.

Introduction

In the field of medicine, it is easy to find an abbreviation which exemplifies for couple of different things and many alike words.¹ The similarities may be with names of diseases and names of drugs.¹ The names may appear alike when they are written for communication or may sound the same when pronounced.¹ This difficulty occurs with names of medications, diseases and furthermore different terms in dermatology vocabulary.¹ These conditions may sound similar or read similar and share words or roots of words.

Hutchinson's sign is a well known clinical dermatological sign, refers to brown black pigmentation originating from nail bed and nail matrix, extending into surrounding tissues which is a sign of subungual melanoma or may denote a skin lesion at the nasal tip.^{1,5,6} Nasociliary branch of the trigeminal nerve supplies cornea as well as tip of the nose which is the reason behind the clinical manifestation. Both are named after a Dermatologist, English surgeon Sir Jonathan Hutchinson (1828–1913).^{1,6}

An eponym is a word which is named after a

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person.^{1,7,8} Look-alike or sound-alike terminologies are not scarce entities. This can be so, as there are a broad catalogue of eponyms which incorporate the title of the same researcher.^{15,16} "Sweet" in "Sweet's syndrome" would literally mean "flavour of candy" for any non-dermatologist. However this disease was named after Dr Robert Douglas Sweet, who to begin with portrayed it in 1964.⁹

The term "Mali" in acroangiokeratosis of Mali,^{10,11} does not allude to Republic of Mali. Dr Mali in 1965 described 18 patients with mauve colored macules and papules present overwhelmingly over the extensor aspect of feet.¹⁰ Comparable title may be befuddled with another individual, for case verrucous carcinoma of Ackerman is named after Lauren Vedder Ackerman (1905-1993) and not, A. Bernard Ackerman (1936-2008).¹ One may see indistinguishable names for two diverse eponyms. For examples "Sjögren" in "Sjögren's syndrome" (Sicca syndrome), is named after Henrik Samuel Conrad Sjögren (1899-1986), Swedish ophthalmologist. Though, "Sjögren" in "Sjögren-Larsson syndrome", is named after, Karl Gustaf Torsten Sjögren (1896-1974) a Swedish physician.¹² Additionally, "Stewart" n "Stewart-Treves syndrome"¹³ refers to a carcinoma originating n a chronic lymphedema

which is different from, “Stewart-Bluefarb syndrome”, that refers to an acroangiokeratosis portrayed by Bluefarb and Adams on patients bearing arterio-venous distortions on their legs.¹⁰ The term pseudo-Kaposi sarcoma, is used synonymously with acroangiokeratosis of Mali and is a broader terminology encompassing Stewart-Bluefarb syndrome and acroangiokeratosis of Mali.¹⁰ Dr Bruce J Bart is the one after whom “Bart syndrome” was

named and the individual behind “Bart-Pumphrey syndrome” is Dr Robert Bart.¹⁴

The following is a list of entities with diseases which sound alike and needs careful observation. Each disease has been given a brief but necessary description of its clinical presentation to help differentiate between the disease entities.

The following is a list of entities

<i>Disease Entity</i>	<i>Description</i>
Actinic granuloma/ Annular elastolytic giant cell granuloma/O’Brien’s actinic granuloma	Variant of granuloma annulare on sun-damaged skin; pink papules evolving into annular erythematous plaques with slightly atrophic centre in sun-exposed areas, which may be precipitated by actinic damage. ¹⁷
Actinic prurigo	PMLE-like disease with photodistributed erythematous papules or nodules and hemorrhagic crust and excoriation. Conjunctivitis and cheilitis are commonly found. Seen more frequently in Native Americans (especially Mestizos). ³
Actinomycetoma	“Madura Foot”; suppurative infection due to Nocardia, Actinomadura, or Streptomyces resulting in tissue tumefaction, draining sinuses and extrusion of grains. ¹⁸
Actinomycosis	“Lumpy Jaw”; Actinomyces israelii; erythematous nodules at the angle of jaw leads to fistulous abscess that drain purulent material with yellow sulfur granules. ³
Acrokeratosis verruciformis of Hopf	AD; Multiple skin-colored, warty papules on the dorsal hands and feet. Often seen in conjunction with Darier disease (unclear if it presents as a independent entity). “church spire” hyperkeratosis on histopathology. ³
Acrodermatitis enteropathica	AR; SLC39A4 mutation; eczematous patches on acral, perineal and periorificial skin; diarrhea and alopecia; secondary to zinc malabsorption. ³
Acrodermatitis continua of Hallopeau	Also known as dermatitis repens. Recurrent episodes of painful inflammation with pustular psoriasis of the nail bed, usually single digit is involved. ³
Acrodermatitis chronica atrophicans	Cutaneous manifestation of chronic lyme borreliosis (usually Borrelia afzelli in Europe; vector Ixodes ricinus), specifically atrophic acral morphea-like skin changes. ³
Atrophoderma	1) Atrophoderma vermiculatum: Pitted atrophic scars in a honeycomb pattern around follicles on the face; associated with Rombo, Nicolau-Balus, Tuzun and Braun-Falco-Marghescu syndromes. ³ 2) Follicular atrophoderma: Icepick depressions at follicular orifices on dorsal hands/feet or cheeks; associated with Bazex-Dupré-Christol and Conradi-Hünemann-Happle syndromes. ³ 3) Atrophoderma of Pasini and Pierini: Depressed patches on the back with a “cliff-drop” transition from normal skin. ³ 4) Atrophoderma of Moulin: Similar to Pasini/Pierini, except lesions follow the lines of Blaschko. ³
Anetoderma	Localized area of flaccid skin due to decreased or absent elastic fibers; exhibits “buttonhole” sign. ³
Bart’s syndrome	AD; collagen VII mutation; aplasia cutis congenita of the lower extremities, plus dominant dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa. ⁴
Bart-Pumphrey syndrome	AD; GJB2 mutation; diffuse PPK with knuckle pads, leukonychia, and

<i>Disease Entity</i>	<i>Description</i>
	deafness. ⁴
Bazex syndrome/ Acrokeratosis paraneoplastica	Paraneoplastic disorder with a psoriasiform dermatitis involving the hands, feet, ears, and nose; associated with upper aerodigestive tract malignancies. ³
Bazex syndrome/Bazex–Dupré–Christol syndrome	XLD; follicular atrophoderma, milia, multiple BCCs, hypotrichosis, and hypohidrosis ^[3] .
Buschke-Löwenstein tumour	Giant condyloma acuminata associated with human papilloma viruses 6 and 11. May develop into verrucous carcinoma which is locally aggressive but does not metastasize. ³
Buschke-Ollendorff syndrome	Dermatofibrosis lenticularis disseminate. ³
Buschke Ollendorff Sign	This is assign of deep dermal tenderness elicited in secondary syphilis on pressing the lesion. ¹⁹
Scleroderma adultorum of buschke	A disorder of skin induration caused my dermal mucin deposition. Different forms of scleredema are associated with streptococcus infection, monoclonal gammopathy and diabetes. ³
Cheilitis glandularis	Inflammatory hyperplasia of the lower labial salivary glands due to chronic sun exposure or irritation; characterized by swelling and eversion of the lower lip. ³
Cheilitis granulomatosa	Non-caseating granulomatous inflammation resulting in swelling of the lip; associated with facial nerve palsy and fissured tongue in Melkersson-Rosenthal syndrome. ³
Chilblain lupus	AD; TREX1 mutation; cutaneous form of chronic cutaneous lupus with red to dusky purple papules and plaques on the fingers and toes associated with acrocyanosis. ³
Chilblains pernio	Abnormal inflammatory and vascular response to cold temperatures resulting in erythematous to violaceous macules, papules, and nodules on acral skin. ³
Cockayne-Touraine	AD; COL7A1 mutation; DDEB with bullae localized to extremities resolving with milia and scarring. ⁴
Cockayne syndrome	AR; ERCC8 and ERCC6 mutations; cachectic dwarf with photosensitivity, salt-and-pepper retinal pigmentation, facial lipodystrophy, CNS demyelination, deafness. ⁴
Weber-Cockayne	AD; K5, K14 mutations; localized form of EBS with palmoplantar bullae and callouses. ⁴
Weber-Christian disease	It is an idiopathic relapsing febrile lobular non-suppurative panniculitis characterised by recurrent subcutaneous inflammatory painful nodules. ³
Darier’s disease	AD; ATP2A2 mutation; hyperkeratotic papules and plaques in a seborrheic distribution, acrokeratosis verruciformis of hopf, red-white longitudinal nail bands with V-shaped nicks, oral cobblestoning. ³
Darier’s sign	Rubbing of lesions in patients with mastocytosis that leads to erythema, pruritus and swelling. ¹⁹
Dowling-Meara/ EBS herpetiformis	AD; K5, K14 mutations; most severe form of EBS with widespread “herpetiform” bullae, PPK, blistering/erosions of oral cavity and esophagus, nail dystrophy and early death; clumped tonofilaments on EM. ⁴
Dowling-Degos disease	AD; K5 mutation; reticulated hyperpigmentation in flexural sites with comedone-like lesions on the neck and back. ³
Degos disease/ malignant atrophic papulosis	Vaso-occlusive disorder with characteristic lesions having a umbilicated, porcelainwhite center with surrounding telangiectasias; death due to GI perforation and peritonitis. ³
Dermoid cyst	Cysts formed by retained epithelium along the embryonic fusion plane, seen congenitally or in childhood, on forehead or lateral eyes. ³
Desmoid tumour	Deep fibrous infiltrative neoplasm categorized as extra abdominal or intra abdominal, associated with gardner syndrome. ³

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Ecthyma	<i>S. pyogenes</i> or <i>S. aureus</i> ; deep form of non bullous impetigo with “punched out” ulcers and thick, overlying yellow crusts. ³
Ecthyma contagiosum	Orf virus; associated with exposure to sheep/goats; skin lesion progresses through six stages: maculopapular, targetoid, acute, regenerative, papillomatous, and regressive. ³
Ecthyma gangrenosum	<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> ; hemorrhagic pustules evolving into necrotic black ulcers in septic immunosuppressed patients. ³
Erythrokeratoderma variabilis	AD; GJB3, GJB4 mutations; fixed hyperkeratotic plaques on the face and extremities with transient, migratory erythematous patches. ³
Epidermodysplasia verruciformis	AR; EVER1, EVER2 mutation; sporadic form associated with HIV, immunosuppression; abnormal susceptibility to HPV 5 & 8 resulting in multiple verrucous lesions with significant risk of malignant transformation. ³
Goltz syndrome/ Focal dermal hypoplasia	XLD; PORCN mutation; linear atrophy following Blaschko’s lines with fat herniation, osteopathia striata, lobster claw deformity, syndactyly, coloboma. ³
Gorlin syndrome/ Basal cell nevus syndrome	AD; PTCH gene; numerous BCC’s, palmoplantar pits, odontogenic keratocysts, calcification of falx cerebri, medulloblastomas, bifid ribs. ³
Gougerot-Blum disease	Lichenoid type of pigmented purpura. ³
Gougerot-Carteaud papillomatosis	Confluent and reticulate papillomatosis. ³
Greither syndrome	AD; K1 mutation; transgredient PPK, hyperhidrosis, hyperkeratotic plaques on shins, knees and elbows. ³
Griscelli syndrome	It is a AR disorder presenting with pigmentary dilution of the skin ,silvery gray hair, recurrent skin and pulmonary infections, neurologic problems, hypogammaglobulinemia, and variable cellular immunodeficiency due to mutation in 15q21 gene. ³
Pemphigus vegetans – Hallopeau subtype	<i>P. vegetans</i> classically occurs in two subtypes: Hallopeau subtype is less severe and begins with pustules while Neumann subtype is more severe and begins with flaccid bullae and erosions; both forms develop into vegetative plaques. ³
Hallopeau-Siemens	AR; COL7A1 mutation; RDEB; severe, generalized bullae with atrophic scarring; mitten deformity of hands/feet, SCCs. ³
Hallopeau-Siemens syndrome	Recessive dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa. ³
Hutchinson’s sign	pigmentation of the proximal nail fold in association with melanonychia as a sign of subungual melanoma. ¹⁹
Hutchinson’s sign	Papulo-vesicular lesions on the tip of the nose as a sign of ophthalmic herpes zoster. ¹⁹
Jackson-Lawler	AD; K6b and K17 mutations; Type II Pachyonychia Congenita; subungual hyperkeratosis, focal PPK, steatocystoma multiplex, epidermoid cysts, natal teeth. ⁴
Jadassohn-Lewandowsky	AD; K6a and K16 mutations; Type I Pachyonychia Congenita; subungual hyperkeratosis, focal PPK, oral leukokeratosis. ⁴
Nevus sebaceous of Jadassohn	Yellowish to orange or tan hairless plaque like lesions, usually present at birth. ³
Jadassohn-Pellizzari anetoderma	It is a condition characterised by sac like skin outpouchings with positive button hoe sign on inward pressure. ³
Livedo reticularis	Mottled, reticular reddish-blue vascular pattern typically on the extremities with a variety of causes. ³
Livedo racemosa	Irregular, branching vascular pattern with broken circular segments that are fixed and do not vary with temperature; can be associated with Sneddon’s syndrome or antiphospholipid syndrome. ³
Livedoid vasculopathy/livedoid vasculitis	A.K.A. Atrophie Blanche; painful, punched out ulcers on lower extremities that heal with atrophic hypopigmented scars. ³

<i>Disease Entity</i>	<i>Description</i>
Lupus pernio	Form of cutaneous sarcoidosis that presents with indurated, violaceous nodules and plaques on the nose, ears and cheeks. ³
Lupus vulgaris	Form of cutaneous tuberculosis in previously sensitized individuals; appears as a red-brown plaque on the head/neck; “apply-jelly” color on diascopy. ³
Lupus miliaris disseminatus faciei	Granulomatous rosacea variant with red to brown papules frequently on malar cheeks. ³
Majocchi’s disease/ Purpura annularis telangiectodes	Type of pigmented purpuric dermatosis with annular plaques and punctate telangiectasias. ³
Majocchi’s granuloma	Granulomatous folliculitis due to dermatophyte infection of the hair follicle often due to <i>T. rubrum</i> . ³
Necrolytic acral erythema	Acral, pruritic, hyperkeratotic plaques; associated with HCV and altered zinc metabolism. ³
Necrolytic migratory erythema	Paraneoplastic disorder associated with underlying glucagon-secreting tumor of the pancreas; erythematous, crusted patches often found on the face, groin and abdomen. ³
Olmsted syndrome	AD; Mutilating PPK with periorificial keratotic plaques. ³
Omens syndrome	AR; RAG1 and RAG2 mutations; form of SCID with erythroderma. ³
Rothmund-Thomson syndrome	AR; RECQL4 mutation; poikiloderma, premalignant acral keratosis, photosensitivity, nail dystrophy, hypoplastic/absent thumbs, risk of osteosarcoma. ⁴
Rubinstein-Taybi syndrome	Sporadic; CREB-binding protein mutation; capillary malformation, broad thumbs, craniofacial abnormalities, MR, cryptorchidism. ⁴
Sjogren Larsson syndrome	It is an autosomal recessive disorder due to mutation in ALDH3A2 gene characterised by congenital ichthyoses, neurological impairment and mental retardation. ⁴
Sjogren’s syndrome	It is a chronic inflammatory autoimmune disease of unknown origin, characterised by salivary and tear gland involvement with sicca. ³
Trichodysplasia spinulosa	Skin-colored, spiny papules typically on the face; seen in immunosuppressed organ transplant patients; associated with polyomavirus. ³
Trichostasis spinulosa	Asymptomatic comedo-like lesions containing keratin and multiple vellus hairs on the face. ³
McCune-Albright syndrome	Sporadic; GNAS1 mutation; “Coast of Maine” CALMs, polyostotic fibrous dysplasia, precocious puberty, hyperthyroidism. ³
Albright’s hereditary osteodystrophy A	AD; GNAS Gs subunit mutation; pseudohypoparathyroidism, short fourth and fifth metacarpals, subcutaneous calcifications, short stature, round face, mental retardation. ²⁰
Endemic typhus	Organism – <i>Rickettsia typhi</i> ; Vector – rat flea (<i>Xenopsylla cheopis</i>); headache, fever, myalgias, transient maculopapular truncal eruption. ³
Epidemic typhus	Organism – <i>Rickettsia prowazekii</i> ; Vector – body louse (<i>Pediculus humanus corporis</i>); HA, fever, myalgias; macular lesions evolve into truncal petechiae sparing the face. ³
Typhoid fever	Organism – <i>Salmonella typhi</i> ; fecal-oral transmission; “rose-spots” on trunk, fever, abdominal pain, weakness, diarrhea. ³
Vaccinia	Injection site reaction to administration of live vaccine for smallpox; eczema vaccinatum is a more exuberant reaction in atopic patients. ³
Variola	Injection site reaction to administration of live vaccine for smallpox; eczema vaccinatum is a more exuberant reaction in atopic patients. ³

Conclusion

Dermatology is a branch of medicine with

numerous lengthy terminology with each disease condition. This article heightens the awareness of dermatologists and related health care

professionals of confusing terminologies and sound-alike conditions in daily practice as they can most often be confused and mistaken. Hence this article is an effort to bring all such terminologies under one roof for better understanding and prevent unrelentless diagnostic dilemma.

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