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The Constituent College

SHRI. B. M. PATIL MEDICAL COLLEGE, HOSPITAL & RESEARCH CENTRE, VIJAYAPURA

### **Dermoscopy**



Dermoscopy is a non-invasive skin imaging technique employed in the diagnosis of skin disorders. Dermoscopy employs a device known as 'Dermoscope' or 'Dermatoscope' that enables visualization of not only skin surface but also the subsurface structures (up to 100 $\mu$  deep) in a magnified and well-illuminated manner. The structures and patterns observed in dermoscopy correspond to the histological features of the disease, which when analyzed and interpreted in the clinical context, helps in diagnosis of skin disorders. The dermoscopic

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features for certain disorders are so specific and reliable that dermoscopy alone serves as a confirmatory diagnostic exercise and precludes the need for skin biopsy which although is the gold standard in the diagnosis of skin disorders, is an invasive technique. Apart from its primary diagnostic application, dermoscopy is also employed in monitoring of skin lesions with potential for malignant transformation (e.g. melanocytic nevi) and also to objectively assess the response to a treatment. Primarily employed as a tool for early diagnosis of skin cancers, the use of dermoscopy has expanded and is widely employed in the diagnosis of skin disorders other than cancers as well.



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