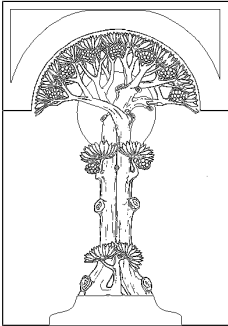


Centre for Integrative Medical Training  
In Association with London Integrated Medical Health Education



# Pre-membership Course in Medical Homeopathy

A Blended Course in Homeopathic Medicine for Healthcare Professionals

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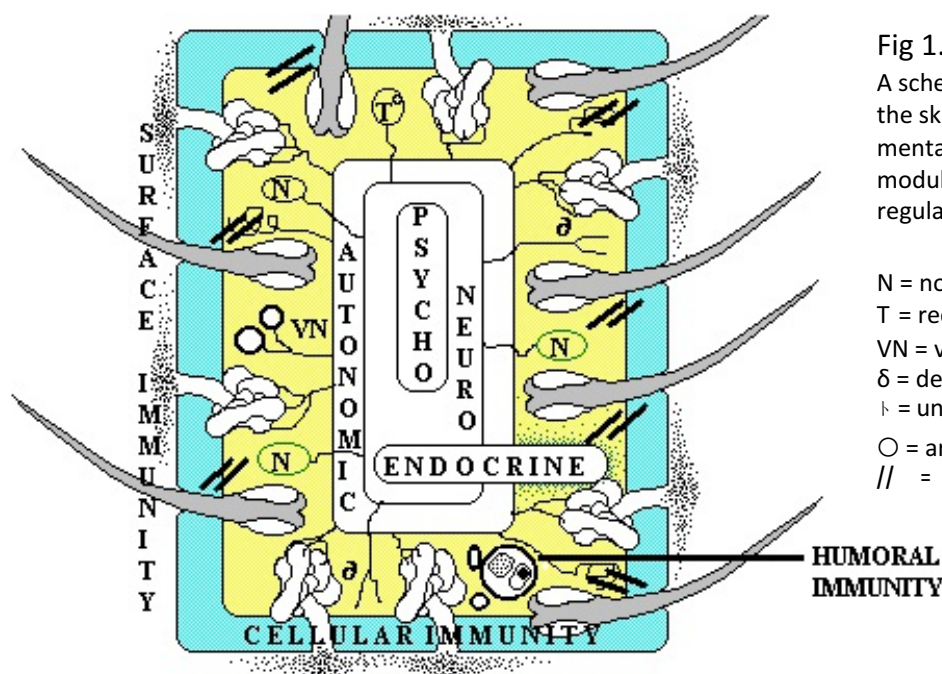
## Unit 68

Therapeutic Pointers for Week 12

## Introduction

In the course of your studies, thus far, you have been exposed to a wide range of prescribing styles. In this unit, we will consider all these methodologies in the context of the homeopathic management of skin conditions..

The skin is a complex interface between our internal environment and the external world. As the body's largest organ, the skin fulfils a multiplicity of homeostatic and physiological functions. This makes it a dynamic and challenging target for homeopathic prescribing.



## Overview

Most skin conditions involve a fabric of dynamic disturbances.

Some are inappropriate responses to disturbances of the internal milieu (eg neurodermatitis), while some are responses primarily to the external environment (eg sunburn).

Many skin conditions have predisposing familial or genetic traits (eg atopic eczema) while others appear to be acquired (eg acne).

A few conditions demonstrate an inexorable degeneration in the histological organisation of the skin (connective tissue diseases) while others are almost wholly episodic and leave little damage (eg uricaria).

Most skin diseases have a complex pathogenesis. There are many variations in the expression of eczema, for example, as a consequence of the numerous factors which can alter the expression of the condition. (infective, allergic, therapeutic, environmental, emotional...)

By representing the skin as an interface we can start to map out the main factors that can be considered when treating the skin from a pathological standpoint.

Fig 2. Summary mapping of the skin's infra-structure, function and extra-corporeal environment.

Internal (Somatic)			External (Extra-corporeal)		
<i>Histological Infrastructure</i>	<i>Organic Function</i>	<i>Physiological Function</i>	<i>Contact Environment</i>	<i>Microbial Flora</i>	<i>Energic Environment</i>
neuro-vascular network	sensorium perfusion	thermostatic			infra-red
apocrine glands	elimination / absorption water balance / thermostatic		bacteria		conductivity pH / radicals
lymphatic	surface immunity humoral immunity		bacterial & viral proteins and products (immune recognition, IgA and C' fixing)		
fibrin	plastic mechanics	regeneration & repair	traumatic objects	opportunistic pathogens	kinetic forces
elastin					
keratin	protection	barrier			visible and ultraviolet light
melanin		UV filter			
cellular	synthetic (eg Vit. D)		(allergens)	herpes viridae	
	cellular immunity				
hair		(thermostatic)		fungi	kinetic forces
nails					



Mapping the pathology

1. Psoriasis

Internal			External		
<i>Histological Architecture</i>	<i>Organic Functions</i>	<i>Homoeostatic Functions</i>	<i>Contact Environment</i>	<i>Microbial Flora</i>	<i>Energic Environment</i>
neuro-vascular network	sensorium	thermostatic	thermal		infra-red
	perfusion				
apocrine	elimination / absorbtion water balance in the skin		bacteria		conductivity pH / radicals
	surface immunity		bacterial & viral proteins and products		? pyogenic erythro-derma
lymphatic	humoral immunity				
<b>fibrin</b>	<b>plastic mechanics</b>	regeneration & repair	traumatic objects	opportunistic pathogens	kinetic forces
<b>elastin</b>					
<b>keratin</b>	<b>protection</b>				visible and ultraviolet light
<b>melanin</b>					
cellular turnover	synthetic (eg Vit. D)				
	cellular immunity				
hair	(thermostatic)		fungi		kinetic forces
nails					

Mapping the Pathology

2. SLE, vasculitis

Internal			External		
<i>Histological Architecture</i>	<i>Organic Functions</i>	<i>Homoeostatic Functions</i>	<i>Contact Environment</i>	<i>Microbial Flora</i>	<i>Energic Environment</i>
neuro-vascular network	sensorium	thermostatic	thermal		infra-red
	perfusion				
apocrine	elimination / absorbtion water balance		bacteria		conductivity pH / radicals
	surface immunity		bacterial & viral proteins and products		? pyogenic
lymphatic	humoral immunity				
fibrin	plastic mechanics	regeneration & repair	traumatic objects	opportunistic pathogens	kinetic forces
elastin					
keratin	protection				visible and ultraviolet light
melanin					
cellular	synthetic (eg Vit. D)	herpes viridae			
	cellular immunity				
hair		(thermostatic)	fungi		kinetic forces
nails					

Mapping the Pathology

3. Urticaria / Angio-oedema

Internal			External		
<i>Histological Architecture</i>	<i>Organic Functions</i>	<i>Homoeostatic Functions</i>	<i>Contact Environment</i>	<i>Microbial Flora</i>	<i>Energic Environment</i>
neuro-vascular network	sensorium	thermostatic	thermal	infra-red	
	perfusion				
apocrine	elimination / absorbtion water balance		bacteria		conductivity pH / radicals
	surface immunity		bacterial & viral proteins and products		? pyogenic
lymphatic	humoral immunity				
fibrin	plastic mechanics	regeneration & repair	traumatic objects	opportunistic pathogens	kinetic forces
elastin					
keratin	protection				visible and ultraviolet light
melanin					
cellular	synthetic (eg Vit. D)	hyper-sensitivity allergens			
	cellular immunity				
hair	(thermostatic)		fungi		kinetic forces
nails					



## Mapping the Pathology

### 4. Connective Tissue Diseases

Internal			External		
<i>Histological Architecture</i>	<i>Organic Functions</i>	<i>Homoeostatic Functions</i>	<i>Contact Environment</i>	<i>Microbial Flora</i>	<i>Energic Environment</i>
neuro-vascular network	sensorium	thermostatic	thermal		infra-red
	perfusion				
apocrine	elimination / absorbtion water balance		bacteria		conductivity pH / radicals
	surface immunity		bacterial & viral proteins and products		? pyogenic
lymphatic	humoral immunity				
<b>fibrin</b>	<b>plastic mechanics</b>	regeneration & repair	traumatic objects	opportunistic pathogens	kinetic forces
<b>elastin</b>					
keratin	protection				visible and ultraviolet light
melanin					
cellular	synthetic (eg Vit. D)				
	cellular immunity	herpes viridae			
hair	(thermostatic)		fungi		kinetic forces
nails					

Mapping the Pathology

5. Acne vulgaris, hydradenitis

Internal			External		
<i>Histological Architecture</i>	<i>Organic Functions</i>	<i>Homoeostatic Functions</i>	<i>Contact Environment</i>	<i>Microbial Flora</i>	<i>Energic Environment</i>
neuro-vascular network	sensorium perfusion	thermostatic	thermal		infra-red
apocrine	elimination / absorbtion water balance			bacteria	conductivity pH / radicals
	surface immunity			bacterial & viral proteins and products	? pyogenic
lymphatic	humoral immunity				
<b>fibrin</b>	plastic mechanics	regeneration & repair	traumatic objects	opportunistic pathogens	kinetic forces
<b>elastin</b>					
keratin	protection				visible and ultraviolet light
melanin					
cellular	synthetic (eg Vit. D)				
	cellular immunity			herpes viridae	
hair		(thermostatic)		fungi	kinetic forces
nails					



Mapping the Pathology

6. Atopic eczema (pathological features in parenthesis)

Internal			External		
<i>Histological Architecture</i>	<i>Organic Functions</i>	<i>Physiological Functions</i>	<i>Contact Environment</i>	<i>Microbial Flora</i>	<i>Energic Environment</i>
neuro-vascular network	sensorium (itching)	thermostatic	thermal		infra-red
	perfusion (erythema)				
apocrine	water balance (dry exfoliation)		bacteria (+/- folliculitis)		conductivity pH / radicals
	surface immunity		bacterial & viral proteins and products (super-infection)		? pyogenic
lymphatic	humoral immunity				
fibrin	plastic mechanics (scarring)	regeneration & repair (lichenification) (cracking & fissuring)		opportunistic pathogens (exudation)	kinetic force (Scratching)
elastin					
keratin	excoriation	UV filter			visible and ultraviolet light
melanin	protection				
cellular	synthetic (eg Vit. D)	hyper - sensitivity		allergens	herpes viridae
	cellular immunity				
hair	thermostatic		fungi (fungal superinfection)		kinetic forces
nails					