Preface

Skin Signs of Systemic Diseases

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Editor

Cutaneous disease is frequent and may be reflective of internal disease. Whole texts have been devoted to discussion of the dermatologic manifestations that are reflective of systemic diseases. In many instances, the presence of skin diseases heralds an underlying systemic disease, and thus, careful assessment may lead to the recognition and diagnosis of an underlying systemic condition. In addition, there are skin lesions and diseases that are important for ALL physicians to recognize.

When I was invited to serve as editor of this issue of Medical Clinics of North America and told that I could select only 12 topics for discussion, I elected to request input from potential readers. To that end, I sent e-mails to my colleagues who lead the internal medicine training program at the University of Louisville as well as several to local practitioners in Louisville. Their requests for updates were surprisingly uniform in their focus. The top requests are those that you will read in this issue.

There is no particular order to the topics that are covered in this issue. I did have the pleasure of inviting colleagues with whom I have worked with on multiple occasions throughout the past 40+ years of my involvement in academic medicine. The lead authors are well-known experts in the area in which they have written, and the process of reading and editing their submissions was a most pleasant process.
I am hopeful that the readers of this issue will find the information contained in these articles to be of use as they care for patients in their practices, and that the result is improved health for patients.

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