

instruction. The collection could have been improved considerably by the use of technical assistance available through many university-based biomedical communications departments.

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Superficial Fungous Infections in Humans:

Petri Dish Identification. Schering Laboratories, Kenilworth, New Jersey. (\$10.00 per set of 20 slides)

Superficial Fungous Infections in Humans consists of 20 slides depicting clinical cases, 100 displaying the gross appearance of colonies of dermatophytes, with an additional 40 slides showing colonies photographed under white and fluorescent light, and 40 microscopic culture mounts.

The slides showing the gross appearance of colonies will be welcome material for the instructor in Medical Mycology both in courses for dermatology and pathology residents and for technology students. Little benefit would be expected from the appearance of colonies in ultraviolet light, at least in routine laboratory work.

Especially in the microscopic section, guidance will be necessary by spoken work or reading to appreciate the importance in frequency and quality of sporulation in individual species; the sheets accompanying the slides only state, for instance, "*T. rubrum*, pyriform microconidia" without further elaboration. The clinical cases are a good introduction to the multitude of clinical responses caused by dermatophytes. Technically, most photographs are adequate, few are outstanding. Some colonies show little in the way of characteristic features.

The material would greatly gain by an associated sound track, particularly for self-instruction by the anxious candidate "beefing up" for board examination. Considering the absence of uniform taxonomy in medical mycology, only few exceptions were found to be standard nomenclature (*T. fluviumuniensis* is a synonym better presented as *T. rubrum*; *T. gallinae* has been reclassified as *Microsporum* in view of the spiny surface of its macroconidia).

Jan Schwarz, M.D.
Cincinnati, Ohio

Metastasizing Basal Cell Carcinoma, Carmen

Thomas, M.D., 16-mm Sound Film; Squibb, Inc., Franklin Lakes, N.J.

My prediction is that this film will not become a classic. Technically, the film is acceptable; after adjusting to the initial light streaks, on a slightly scratched film, one finds the sound track adequate and the close-up photography good.

This unusual case presentation is that of a primary, erosive, ulcerative lesion of the anterior leg, untreated for 5 years. The histologic diagnosis is basal cell carcinoma. Subsequently, similar basaloid cells are found upon biopsy of an inguinal lymph node from the same extremity as the leg ulcer and soon thereafter similar basaloid cells are found in the bone marrow. From 10-18-65 until death on 4-1-66, the patient became rapidly cachectic and had severe anemia due to purported bone marrow replacement by tumor; initially there were a few skin nodules on the back, some of which had the clinical appearance of basal cell carcinomas, with final evolution of dozens of skin tumors widely disseminated over the trunk and extremities. Several of the lesions were biopsied and reported to represent basal cell carcinomas; no special stains or special histologic studies were described, though the histopathologic specimens had a striking glandular character to this reviewer. It was reported that the lesions did not respond to x-ray therapy, though the technique and doses were not described. At autopsy, tumor was found in the liver, spleen, and adrenals, in addition to the above-mentioned sites.

The producer attempts to leave a pearl for his audience by proposing that ulcerative basal cell carcinomas of the extremities, though rare, tend to metastasize, and therefore such patients should be carefully treated and observed.

The presentation is that of a single, bizarre case, presented in a disjointed manner. There is not convincing proof of the establishment of a histologic diagnosis of the tumor cells in the bone marrow, liver, or spleen. This along with failure of the tumor to be radiosensitive, as well as the patterns of disseminated metastases, seems to be out of character for a basal cell carcinoma. No statistics or data are given on the absolute rarity or mode of metastasis of basal cell carcinoma.

The film represents a most unusual sequence of events; as a teaching or training film for the student, it has little or no merit. It will leave the well-informed dermatologist with the frustrated feeling of wondering what this patient really had, for he knows he will never encounter another patient like this one.

Hiram M. Sturm, M.D.
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Clinical Applications of Lasers, Upjohn Professional Film Library, Kalamazoo, Michigan. (\$26.00)

The film outlines the areas of medicine in which lasers are already being used as therapeutic tools. It does not attempt to describe new diagnostic techniques or explore the many varied, interesting,