



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Skin and Connective Tissue Diseases

2425-3-H4102D057

Aims

- To acquire epidemiological, pathophysiological, and clinical knowledge of major dermatological and rheumatological diseases.
- To recognize the signs and symptoms of skin disorders and connective tissue diseases.
- To critically interpret laboratory and imaging results for diagnostic and monitoring purposes.
- To learn the principles of differential diagnosis, classification criteria, and therapeutic approaches.
- To develop skills in dermatological and joint examination and integrated clinical management.
- To explore gender differences in prevalence, clinical manifestations, and treatment responses.

Contents

- Inflammatory, infectious, neoplastic, and bullous skin diseases: etiology, clinical manifestations, diagnosis, and therapy.
- Connective tissue diseases: lupus, systemic sclerosis, inflammatory myopathies, and Sjögren's syndrome.
- Inflammatory and microcrystalline arthritides: rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis, gout, and calcium pyrophosphate deposition disease.
- Systemic vasculitis: classification, clinical presentations, and therapeutic approaches.
- Cutaneous manifestations of systemic diseases and extra-articular rheumatisms.
- Gender differences in the diseases covered.

Detailed program

1. *Clinical and surgical Dermatology*
 - Dermatological examination: semiotics, primary and secondary lesions.

- Principles of skin anatomy, physiology, and histology.
- Cutaneous infections (bacterial, viral, fungal, parasitic).
- Inflammatory diseases: psoriasis, eczema, acne, rosacea, lichen planus.
- Autoimmune bullous diseases: pemphigus, pemphigoid, dermatitis herpetiformis.
- Skin tumors: actinic keratosis, basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, melanoma.
- Sexually transmitted diseases and cutaneous manifestations of systemic diseases.

2. *Rheumatological diseases*

- Classification of rheumatic diseases.
- Inflammatory arthritides: rheumatoid arthritis, spondyloarthritis.
- Microcrystalline arthritides: gout and CPPD.
- Connective tissue diseases: systemic lupus erythematosus, systemic sclerosis, dermatomyositis, Sjögren's syndrome.
- Vasculitis: large vessel vasculitis, polyarteritis nodosa, ANCA-associated vasculitis, Behçet's disease.
- Extra-articular rheumatisms: fibromyalgia and related clinical aspects.

Prerequisites

- Successful completion of prerequisite exams specified in the degree program, including internal medicine, immunology, and pharmacology.
- Basic knowledge of general pathology, skin and musculoskeletal system anatomy and physiology.

Teaching form

- Lectures: In-person frontal lectures.
- Interactive lessons: Small group activities focused on clinical case discussions.
- Practical activities: Demonstrations of dermatological and joint examination techniques.

Textbook and teaching resource

Dermatology:

- Fitzpatrick's Color Atlas and Synopsis of Clinical Dermatology, Saavedra / Roh / Mikailov, McGraw-Hill, IX ed, 2023.
- Manuale di Dermatologia Medica e Chirurgica, Cainelli / Giannetti / Rebora, McGraw-Hill, VI ed, 2016.

Rheumatology:

- Firestein & Kelley's Textbook of Rheumatology-E-Book, Firestein et al., Elsevier Health Sciences, 2020.
- EULAR Textbook on Rheumatic Diseases, 3^a edizione, 2018.

Semester

Second semester of the third year of the course.

Assessment method

*Final oral examination: *

- Assessment of knowledge acquired on the topics covered.
- Emphasis on differential diagnostic reasoning and integrated clinical skills.

*Evaluation criteria: *

- Completeness and depth of knowledge.
 - Critical analysis, synthesis ability, and interdisciplinary connections.
 - Clarity and accuracy of presentation.
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- *Active participation*: Required during lectures and practical activities.

Office hours

By appointment: To be arranged via e-mail with the professor.

Sustainable Development Goals

GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING | QUALITY EDUCATION | GENDER EQUALITY
