UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI DI MILANO-BICOCCA

COURSE SYLLABUS

Skin and Connective Tissue Diseases

2526-3-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, 3ª 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.

• *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