

Contents

Preface	ix
1 Basic pharmacology	1
Routes of administration	1
Pharmacokinetics	3
Pharmacodynamics	10
Undesirable responses to drug therapy	12
Factors affecting an individual's response to a drug	12
2 The skin	16
The epidermis	17
Dermis	18
3 Treatment of infection	20
Groups of antibacterial drugs	21
Mode of action	21
Inhibition of synthesis and damage to the bacterial cell wall	22
Inhibition of synthesis and damage to the bacterial cell membrane	22
Modification of bacterial nucleic acid synthesis	22
Inhibition or modification of bacterial protein synthesis	22
Modification of bacterial energy metabolism	22
Contraindications	23
Side-effects	23
4 Acne vulgaris and rosacea	26
Acne vulgaris	26
Rosacea	36
Specialist referral	39

5 Psoriasis	41
Patho-physiological changes in the skin	42
Preparation for the treatment of psoriasis	48
Rotational topical therapy	55
New biologics	55
Specialist referral	55
6 Eczema	57
Histopathology of eczema	57
Clinical features	59
Classification of eczema	61
Management principles	61
Assessment	62
Preparation for treatment of eczema	64
Role of anti-infective agents in the management of eczema	65
Other treatments for eczema	66
Specialist referral	66
7 Urticaria and angio-oedema	69
Pathophysiology	69
Clinical presentation	70
Assessment	73
Management of urticaria	75
8 Infections and infestations of the skin	78
Bacterial skin infections	78
Viral skin infections	86
Fungal infections	94
Infestations of the hair and skin	99
9 Skin cancer	109
Introduction	109
Epidemiology of skin cancer	109
Aetiology of skin cancer	110
Common precancerous skin lesions	110
Malignant melanoma	111

Contents

vii

Secondary metastatic disease	113
Non-melanoma skin cancers	114
Prevention of skin cancer	117
Topical agents	120
Index	125