

# Frequently Asked Questions



## Dealing With Common Skin Problems

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### 1. How do I take a history?

History-taking includes observing whether the lesion is acute or chronic, and studying the behaviour of the lesion. It is also good to ask the patient if the lesion has changed size or colour, whether the lesion causes discomfort, and whether there are any external agents which affect the lesion. Other important information is the patient's family history, the patient's medication and allergies, whether the patient has had the same lesion in the past, and how the patient responded to previous treatment.

### 2. How many patients present with skin problems?

Skin problems represent approximately 15% to 20% of all visits to primary-care providers.

### 3. What do I look for on physical exam?

Look at the location and distribution of the lesion, whether there is erythema, what the surface features are, the type of lesion, the colour of the lesion, the arrangement of the lesion, the border and shape of the lesion, and special sites affected by the lesion.

For an in-depth article  
on common skin problems,  
please go to page 102.