

Features that must be part of the description of a primary lesion are listed in Box 11.1. When a patient has several lesions, their distribution must be specified as well as a possibly notable arrangement. It is essential to identify and describe all lesions present and to record their evolution (dynamism). Thus, for example, in chickenpox, primary lesions manifest as vesicles with a cutaneomucosal distribution and no particular configuration. These lesions evolve towards umbilication and crusting, through several asynchronous flares.

Box 11.1 Descriptive Features of a Dermatological Lesion

Nature of the primary lesion
Size of the primary lesion
Disposition, configuration, and demarcations of the primary lesion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shape and configuration: round, oval, polygonal, target shaped, annular, linear, etc. Relief: flat, domed, sessile, pediculate, acuminate, umbilication, lobulated, etc. Demarcations: well defined, not very well defined
Symmetry
Regularity
Color of the lesion and effect of diascopy
Anomalies of the cutaneous surface
Consistence of the lesion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Normal (comparable to healthy skin) Soft Firm Rough Elastic, renitent (resistant to finger pressure) Hard Depressible Fluctuating
Depth of the lesion
Temperature and sensitivity