

Burgdorf, Plewig, Wolff, Landthaler (eds): Braun-Falco's dermatology

**3rd Edition, Springer Medizin Verlag, Heidelberg, 2009, 1712 pp, €245.03
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Skin diseases are very frequent, and although they are rarely life-threatening, they might not only limit the quality of life, but as well affect the ability to work and to be employed. In accordance with the German "Occupational Preventive Medical Care Ordinance" (ArbMedVV), the company physician has to examine the skin in order to prevent occupationally induced skin diseases. During this examination, he might come across skin disorders which have to be medically assessed. In case of skin diseases totally or partially induced by occupation, it has to be decided whether the preventive measures within the company (substitution of working material, changes in working processes, consequent implementation of protective measures, skin cleansing, and skin care) can easily be realized and whether they are sufficient for healing. During the medical assessment, the company physician sometimes has to give his opinion on existing, non-occupational induced skin diseases as well. If a patient is already under medical treatment with regard to a rare skin disease, the company physician generally has to take this diagnosis into consideration during the preventive occupational examination. For the evaluation of such cases, it is extremely helpful to be up to date with the knowledge of classification, diagnosis, and therapy in dermatology.

"Dermatologie und Venerologie" by Braun-Falco, Plewig, and Wolff has been a German standard work of dermatology for decades. This standard work has now been

updated, revised, and extended and is published as 6th edition. This edition (or previous one) is likely to be found in most German dermatological practices and clinics and is therefore a good basis for the communication between company physicians and dermatologists.

In English, the 3rd edition ("Braun-Falco's Dermatology" by Burgdorf, Plewig, Wolff, and Landthaler) has, along with the 1st and 2nd edition, gone through various stages of translation and adaptation of the German edition.

The book imparts knowledge of the fundamental principles of examination and diagnostic procedures as well as the pathogenesis of skin diseases on a high standard. The topics are clearly structured and allow a quick classification of dermatological disease patterns and important differential diagnoses. In this connection, 1,200 color images are of essential value. One chapter addresses occupational dermatoses and their assessment, whereas the book clearly focuses on the presentation of dermatology as a whole and not on occupational dermatology in depth.

This book is recommended for both occupational health physicians and company physicians who carry out preventive occupational skin examinations regularly and who time and again face questions related to dermatology. The book can be used as a reference work both for medical advice beyond occupational dermatoses and for an adequate professional dialogue with colleagues in the field of dermatology.

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