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# Differential Diagnosis in Pediatric Dermatology

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Ernesto Bonifazi

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 Springer

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*To Carlo Meneghini,  
unforgettable teacher*

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## Foreword

Pediatric dermatology is the branch of dermatology that has acquired its own autonomous standing within the field of dermatology for many reasons. First, it is because of specific childhood diseases, such as neonatal dermatoses and Gianotti–Crosti and staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome. Then, there are those diseases that are typical, if not exclusive, of this age (atopic dermatitis, impetigo), those diseases that manifest themselves with different characteristics in the adult and child (dermatomyositis, psoriasis), and finally, those diseases that start in childhood but continue into adulthood (genodermatoses). Therefore, the approach to this fascinating but difficult discipline requires sound dermatological knowledge combined with pediatric sensitivity. For all these reasons, and for the frequency with which physicians encounter skin disorders in their daily clinical practice, more and more pediatricians are turning to it. This book is meant for them and for many dermatologists for whom pediatric dermatology has not been the main interest. The author is well known: Ernesto Bonifazi has long been a leading light and teacher of pediatric dermatology both in Italy and internationally. Readers of the *European Journal of Pediatric Dermatology*, the official journal of the European Society for Pediatric Dermatology, of which Ernesto was the second President, already know and value his column on differential diagnosis published in the journal. Such work reveals two main talents: his passion for teaching, which he has long exercised as Professor at the University of Bari and which manifests itself as a natural, clear, and concise exposition, and his experience, which is the result of many years of penetrating and precise clinical observations. The differential diagnoses are presented in pairs, concisely, and are accompanied by illustrative and coherent images. The book is an essential tool, a true distillation of practical dermatological knowledge. Consider this book as a good but discreet friend, though as valuable as only true friends can be.

Mauro Paradisi  
Past President of the Italian Society  
of Pediatric Dermatology

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## Preface

An original column dedicated to the differential diagnosis of skin diseases in children was consistently included in the Italian journal devoted to Pediatric Dermatology (*Pediatric Dermatology News*), which was founded in 1982 simultaneously with the American (*Pediatric Dermatology*) and Japanese (*Journal of Pediatric Dermatology*) journals, and changed its name in *European Journal of Pediatric Dermatology* in 1991.

The book you hold in your hand is a collection of all published differential diagnoses, plus others, revisited in the light of current clinical experience and accompanied by new images. Each chapter, which consists of two pages, refers to the differential diagnosis between two dermatological conditions (in exceptional cases, three or four), and contains 2–6 images and a very short text that emphasize the clinical differences between the two diseases. At the end of each chapter, a summary highlights one or two diagnostic characteristics essential for the differential diagnosis. The book should be of help to the growing number of physicians—pediatricians, dermatologists, general practitioners—interested in pediatric dermatology.

Ernesto Bonifazi

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Moreover, my thanks go to Mario Cutrone, who provided the photos of streptococcal scarlet fever, and Tani Scanni for the photos of keratin hair casts and pubic lice.

Finally, I would like to thank all my friends, who like me dedicated their life to pediatric dermatology, particularly Iria who suggested the differential diagnosis between Spitz nevus and juvenile xanthogranuloma.

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