REACTION PATTERNS OF THE SKIN

ESSAY

Submitted in partial fulfilment for master degree in Dermatology

PRESENTED BY

HODA MOHAMMED ABD EL SAMEI

M.B.B.Ch.

Supervised By

Prof. Dr. MOHAMMED A. EL-DAROUTY

Professor of Dermatology and Dermatopathology

Cairo University

Ass.Prof. HESHAM ZAHER

Ass. Prof. of Dermatology

Cairo University.

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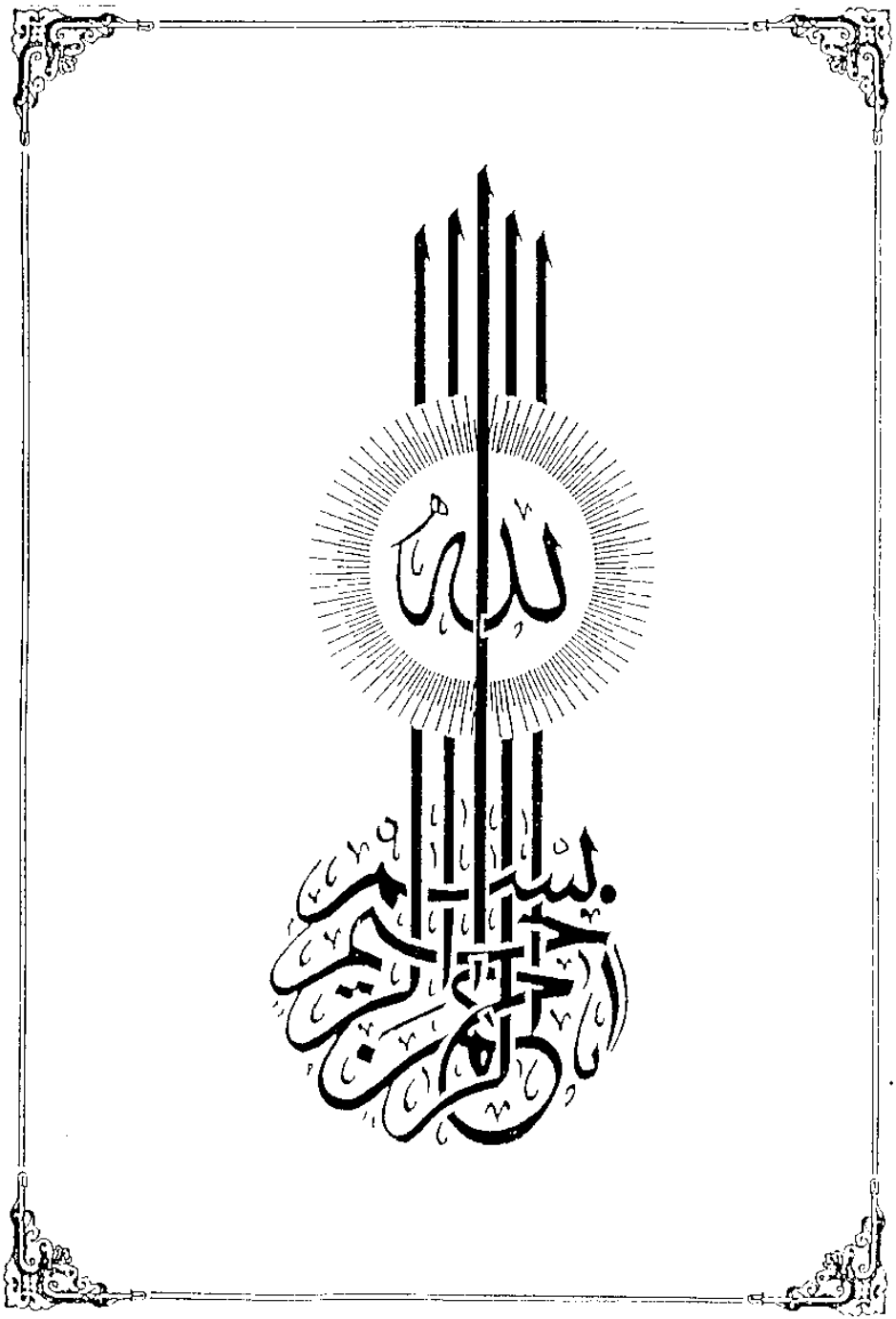

بسم ا لله الرحمن الرحيم

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INTRODUCTION

Histopathologic reaction patterns of the skin include a group of characteristic histological changes involving either the epidermis or the dermis. Because characteristic reaction patterns of the skin occur in association with a large number of diverse disorders, therefore they are considered as non-specific in most cases and can be called non-specific reaction patterns (El Darouty, 1993).

Identifying the various reaction patterns of the epidermis and the dermis is important in predicting the underlying cause and determining its functional significance. Although routine light microscopic examination of skin lesions affords significant information in this regard, special dermatopathologic techniques such as histochemical stains, ultrastructural examination and immunologic techniques have provided substantial understanding of cutaneous reaction patterns(Kurban and Mihn, 1993).

HISTOPATHOLOGIC REACTION PATTERNS OF THE SKIN

In response to various stimuli, the skin reacts accordingly and fashions a reaction pattern that may involve the epidermis or the dermis, or both (Kurban and Mihn, 1993) .

Reaction patterns of the skin can be divided into two main types according to El Darouty (1993):

I -Epidermal reaction patterns:

1- Hyperkeratosis.

2- Parakeratosis

Benign: psoriasis, eczema.

Malignant: solar keratosis, Bowen's disease.

3- Acanthosis.

4- Pseudocarcinomatous hyperplasia.

5- Epidermolytic hyperkertosis.

6- Focal acantholytic dyskertosis.

7- Colloid keratosis.

8- Apoptosis.

9- Epidermal mucinosis.

10- Follicular mucinosis.

11- Cornoid lamellation.

12- Transepidermal elimination.

13- Clear cell papulosis.

II- Dermal reaction patterns:

1- Fibrosis(fibromatosis).

2- Granulomatous reaction (granulomatous inflammation).

3- Vascular reactions:

-Erythema.

- Telangietasia.

4- Sclerosis

- dermal. ,

- subcutaneous.

5-Necrosis.

III.Subcutaneous reaction patterns:

-Panniculitis.

HYPERKERATOSIS

Hyperkeratosis, or thickening of the stratum corneum, is a reaction pattern to a variety of stimuli, the most prominent of which is chronic itching. Hyperkeratosis occurs with or without thickening (acanthosis) of the epidermis. It is seen in the following conditions:

Congenital and hereditary diseases:

Ichthyosis.

Epidermal noevi.

-Acquired diseases:

-Lichen simplex chronicus.

-Lichen amyloidosis.

-Lichen planus.

-Verruca vulgaris (Cutaneous horn).

-Seborrheic keratosis (Keratotic type).

-Actinic keratosis (Keratotic type- Cutaneous horn).

-Tricholemmoma (Tricholemmonal horn).

-Follicular keratosis.

-Acquired:

-Keratosis pilaris.

-Acneform eruption.

Congenital:

-Noevus comedonicus.

-Follicular ichthyosis. (EL Darouty, 1993)