



Preface
Ethnic skin diseases



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Guest Editor

The changing demographics of the United States have given a new face to North America. With current projections indicating that the majority of the United States population will be non-Caucasian by midcentury, there are already changes in the ethnic and racial groups seen in the dermatologist's office. This issue of the *Dermatologic Clinics* is devoted to ethnic skin diseases—for the purposes of the issue, the term *ethnic* denotes non-Caucasian.

With approximately one third of the United States population now being non-Caucasian, changing demographics have occurred not only in metropolitan areas but also in pockets throughout the country. The contributing authors of this issue have attempted to give a better understanding of skin and hair disorders seen in the major non-Caucasian ethnic groups in the United States. There are disorders that may be found frequently in some groups and some that may be found rarely. Furthermore, the presentation of common dermatologic disorders may vary from one ethnic group to another.

Medical and surgical therapies may be different in non-Caucasian populations for diseases of skin and

hair than in Caucasian populations. Newer treatment modalities such as lasers require knowledge of proper parameters as well as a knowledge of adverse reactions in darker skin. With the consumer market becoming much wider for ethnic populations, knowledge of unique cosmetics and personal care products becomes necessary. An important aspect of treating non-Caucasian patients is an awareness of cultural issues specific to those populations.

This issue includes articles concerning dermatological diseases found in specific ethnic populations as well as articles concerning a particular dermatological disorder or related disorders occurring in ethnic groups. The contributing authors have considerable experience in ethnic dermatology.

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