

### Objectives

- Describe the role of skin as a protective mechanism against injury, infection, thermal and water losses as well as a means to receive sensory input and support maternal-infant relationships
- Explain the anatomical development of the integumentary system and relate the impact that prematurity has upon its function and maturation timeline
- Recognize normal physiologic variations and distinguish between common findings and dermatologic conditions arising genetically or from environmental or infectious processes
- Relate techniques used to assess the integumentary system and explain the recommended approaches to skin care in infancy with emphasis upon the needs of the preterm infant

### Content Outline

1. Skin Structure and Function
  - 1.1 Gestational age variations
2. General Assessment of the Integumentary System
  - 2.1 Physiologic variations
3. Dermatologic Disorders and Recommended Management
  - 3.1 Definitions
  - 3.2 Developmental vascular abnormalities
    - 3.2.1 Pigmented nevi
    - 3.2.2 Hemangiomas
    - 3.3.3 Port-wine stain
  - 3.3 Epidermolysis bullosa
  - 3.4 Skin infections
    - 3.4.1 bacterial
    - 3.4.2 viral
    - 3.4.3 fungal
  - 3.5 Scaling disorders
    - 3.5.1 Postmaturity
    - 3.5.2 Essential fatty acid deficiency
    - 3.5.3 Ichthyosis
    - 3.5.4 Eczema
4. Skin Care Practices Including Approaches to Assessment and Management
  - 4.1 General assessment of the skin
  - 4.2 Bathing
  - 4.3 Use of emollients, ointments, creams, disinfectants and adhesives
  - 4.4 Prevention of transepidermal water losses (TEWL)
  - 4.5 Nutritional deficiencies
  - 4.6 Intravenous extravasations
  - 4.7 Diaper dermatitis
5. Evidence-Based Skin Care Guideline

### Reading Material Resources

This self assessment module is based on the resources listed below.

The reading materials are in the form of a PDF file and can be accessed from the online testing center once the module is purchased.

Chapter 4, Comprehensive Neonatal Care, An Interdisciplinary Approach, Kenner, Saunders Elsevier, 2007, pages 65-91