



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

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Dermatology Australasia and Australasian College of Dermatologists

Course outline:
Certificate in Vulval Dermatology

2026



Dermatology
AUSTRALASIA

1. Course information

1.1 Course aims

Many women with vulvar disease can suffer for years with undiagnosed symptoms.

This online course will provide participants with knowledge and skills that will support their understanding, diagnosis and management of a range of female genital skin disorders from both a clinical and psychological perspective.

1.2 Learning objectives (LOs)

At the successful completion of this course, students should be able to:

1. Recall dermatological issues in the context of female genitalia
2. Identify the triggers and risk factors for vulval dermatological conditions
3. Demonstrate confidence in diagnosing dermatological conditions in the context of female genitalia through an analytical approach to the patient's presentation
4. Interpret the clinical clues to diagnosing vulvar-vaginal infections
5. Develop appropriate treatment and ongoing management plans
6. Interpret the results of the investigations
7. Demonstrate empathy for the ongoing social and psychological issues for patients presenting with vulval dermatological conditions.
8. Describe how to counsel patients on initial management of vulval dermatological conditions
9. Identify situations in which referral to a specialist is the best action

1.3 Learning and teaching activities

The course is organised into seven components.

- **Pre-course Self Reflection:** completed prior to starting the course and includes a self-rating of your current experience/practice in the treating patients.
- **Pre-knowledge Quiz:** to be completed prior to starting the course to help you assess your 'entry level' skills and knowledge.
- **Self-paced online units:** There are five self-paced online units.
 1. Anatomy and normal vulvar variants
 2. Vulvar dermatitis and psoriasis
 3. Lichenoid Dermatoses
 4. Infections
 5. Neuropathic pain and dyspareunia

Each unit is comprised of a number of topic specific tutorials. Embedded within these tutorials where appropriate, are 'compulsory practice real patient scenarios' designed to consolidate your learning. Whilst they are compulsory, they are not part of the assessment component of this course.

- **Ask the Teacher:** These forums are located at the end of each module and are a place where students can post cases and ask questions. Lecturers and other students can provide feedback for discussion. This is an interactive course component.
- **Webinars:** 1 live webinar is held each trimester as part of this course. Attendance or watching the recording is mandatory. Attendance is preferred, as it is an opportunity to interact with your lecturer and colleagues.
- **Final Assessment:** The final assessment for the subject is an online 90-minute MCQ examination, and written responses to 3 'standard real patient' case studies..
- **Post-course Self Reflection:** completed after starting the course and includes a self-rating of your acquired skills and knowledge about vulval dermatology.

Clinical scenarios are the main teaching and assessment tool across all learning modes of the course. They illustrate the essential content in the online modules. They are used to assess the application of knowledge and skills in the end-of-topic tests and final examination.

2. Course structure and content

This course is delivered on a trimester basis which is completed over a 16-week period.

The course consists of a total of approximately 27 hours of student effort. Below is the suggested breakdown of your time:

- 2 hours orientation, pre-knowledge quiz and reflective exercise
- 14 hours online learning (including tutorial-based practice scenarios)
- 1 hour recorded lectures
- 1 hour live webinar
- 1.5 hours Final Online Exam
- 2 hours online case study response
- 4.5 hours additional reading/private research
- 1 hour post course reflective exercise

	Total Hours	Educational Activities	Performance Review Activities	Outcome Measurement Activities
RACGP CPD hours	27	21	4	2
ACRRM PDP hours	27	21	4	2

The five topics within this module have been organised in the following structure:

1. Anatomy and normal vulval variants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General Anatomy• Normal Variants• Vulval changes with age• Counselling and vulval care
2. Vulval dermatitis and psoriasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vulval Dermatitis• Vulval Psoriasis
3. Lichenoid Dermatoses	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lichen Sclerosus• Lichen Planus
4. Infections	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thrush• Bacterial Vaginosis• Genital Herpes and HPV
5. Neuropathic pain and dyspareunia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vulval pain• Vaginal Dyspareunia• Approach to the patient with constant pain• Neuropathic pain• Psychiatric conditions associated with vulval pain

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment tasks

Topic/Unit	Assessment/Consolidation Task/s	Time	Weighting
Pre-Course activities		Before commencing course	
	Self-reflection exercise	Untimed – open access	Non-assessable
	Pre-knowledge quiz	Time limited	Non-assessable
Unit 1 Anatomy and normal vulval variations			
Tutorial 1: General anatomy	Nil – general introduction	NA	Nil
Tutorial 2: Normal variants	2 x Practice Scenario	Untimed- forced completion	Non-assessable
Tutorial 3: Vulval Changes with Age	Nil		Non-assessable
Tutorial 4: Counselling and vulval care	1x Practice scenario	Untimed- forced completion	Non-assessable
Unit 2: Vulval Dermatitis and Psoriasis			
Tutorial 1: Vulval Dermatitis	4 x contextualised review exercises 2 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed – forced completion Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable Non-assessable
Tutorial 2: Vulval Psoriasis	2 x contextualised review exercises 3 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed – forced completion Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable Non-assessable
Unit 3: Lichenoid Dermatoses			
Tutorial 1: Lichen Sclerosis	4 x contextualised review exercises 5 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed – forced completion Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable Non-assessable
Tutorial 2: Lichen Planus	4 x contextualised review exercises	Untimed – forced completion	Non-assessable Non-assessable

	2 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed-forced completion	
Unit 4: Infections			
Tutorial 1: Thrush	2 x contextualised review exercises 2 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed – forced completion Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable Non-assessable
Tutorial 2: Bacterial Vaginosis	2 x contextualised review exercises 2 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed – forced completion Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable Non-assessable
Tutorial 3: Genital Herpes and HPV	1 x contextualised review exercise 2 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed – forced completion Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable Non-assessable
Unit 5: Neuropathic pain and Dyspareunia			
Tutorial 1: Vulval Pain	2 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable
Tutorial 2: Vaginal Dyspareunia	2 x Contextualised Practice scenarios	Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable
Tutorial 3: Approach to patient with constant pain	1 x Contextualised Practice scenario	Untimed-forced completion	Non-assessable
Tutorial 4: Neuropathic pain	1 x Contextualised Practice scenario	Untimed – forced completion	Non-assessable
Tutorial 5: Psychiatric conditions associated with vulval pain	Nil	Nil	Non-assessable
Webinars	1 live webinars per Trimester Available post webinar for review	TBA	Compulsory attendance
Case Study Submission	Written responses to 3 separate pre-loaded standardised case studies	No later than 2 weeks before Trimester end	75% pass mark 30% weighting
Final Online Exam	40 MCQ Time Limited 2 attempts (best score)	After all topics completed	75% pass mark 70% weighting
Post-Course activities	Self-reflection exercise	Before commencing course	Non-assessable

3.2 Academic integrity, referencing and plagiarism

Be sure to provide a list of references whenever you draw on someone else's words, ideas or research to inform your own work. Not referencing other people's work can constitute plagiarism. Please read the '[ACD Academic Misconduct policy.](#)' This policy is available on the ACD Website.

4. Readings and resources

If appropriate, additional readings/resources will be provided.

5. Administrative matters

Please see our Terms and Conditions [here](#).

For further information or questions about the course, please contact enquiries@dermatologyaustralia.com.au.

The Australasian College of Dermatologists complies with the requirements of the Federal Privacy Act and the National Privacy Principles. A full copy of the College's privacy policy is available [here](#).

Acknowledgements

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