



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

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Dermatology Australasia and Australasian College of Dermatologists

Course outline:

Hair & Nails

2026



Dermatology
AUSTRALASIA

1. Course information

1.1 Course aims

Abnormalities of hair and nails, may be specific diseases in themselves, or signs of underlying disease. This module covers the most common diseases and conditions you will encounter in your daily practice as a GP.

1.2 Learning objectives (LOs)

After completing this module, you should be able to:

1. Describe the basic structure and function of hair and nails
2. Implement a systematic and professional approach to the examination of hair and nails
3. Assess and diagnose common conditions associated with the hair and nails
4. Plan and develop treatment and management regimens appropriate to the common conditions of hair and nails that are diagnosed
5. Demonstrate effective communication skills to explore a patient's concerns and expectations
6. Assess when to refer a patient on to a specialist

1.3 Learning and teaching activities

The course is organised into seven components.

- **Pre-learning activities:** are completed prior to starting the course and include a self-rating of your current skills and knowledge about diseases of the hair and nails.
- **Self-paced online modules:** There are two self-paced online modules. At the end of each module participants will need to complete the Topic Scenarios which consist of case studies with T/F or multiple choice questions.
 - Hair
 - Nails
- **Case Discussion Forum:** This is a forum where students list differential diagnosis, treatment and management options on various case studies. Lecturers and other students can provide feedback for discussion. This is an interactive course component.
- **2 Case Study Submissions:** In approximately 500 – 600 words students need to submit 2 cases from their practice that are relevant to diseases of the hair and nails. They need to present:
 - Clinical finding of the case
 - Any investigations
 - Description of the management
 - Photos of the clinical case (if possible)
 - Summary of the case – therefore a reflection of the main learning points; how the patient was managed, rationale as to why this particular patient was managed in this way or in retrospect what could you have done differently and any other significant learning points. Please include a reference to a literature review.
- **Webinars:** 1 live webinar is held as part of this course in Trimester 1. Attendance or watching the recording are 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 30-minute examination with 12 case-based questions.
- **Post-course Self Reflection:** completed after starting the course and includes a self-rating of your acquired skills and knowledge about diseases of the hair and nails.

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 Outline

You can enroll in this course at any time to access the course material. This course is delivered over a 16 - week period and is self-paced.

Please be advised that the webinars are only run in Trimester 1 of each year and enrolment in this Trimester is thus encouraged.

The course consists of a total of approximately 15 hours of student effort. Here is a general overview of how long items may take:

- 2 hours orientation/getting started
- 4.5 hours online learning
- 1 hour live webinar
- 2 hour Case Discussion Forum
- 4 hours Case Study Submission
- 0.5 hours Final Online Exam
- 1 hours Additional Reading

CPD Hours

	Total Hours	Educational Activities	Performance Review Activities	Outcome Measurement Activities
RACGP CPD Hours	15	6	7	2
ACRRM PDP Hours	15	6	7	2

1. Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Basic structure of hair• Hair types• The hair follicle• The hair growth cycle• Common conditions:• Male pattern baldness• Androgenetic alopecia in women• Alopecia areata• Trichotillomania
2. Nails	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The basics of nails• Common conditions associated with nails• Onycholysis• Paronychia• Ingrown toenails and sub-ungual haematoma• Nail naevi-melanoma

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment tasks

Tasks	Task Description	Time	Weighting
Quizzes & Practice Scenarios	Complete the 2 topics and associated activities such as short diagnostic quizzes and practice scenarios.	At the end of the relevant topics	Need to pass to proceed
Webinar	Attend the live or view the recorded webinar		Compulsory to complete
Case Discussion Forum	Reply to at all the available cases	Throughout enrolment	10%
Case Study Submission x 2	500 words on relevant H&N case	No later than 2 weeks before Trimester end	75% pass mark 40% weighting
Final Online Exam	A mark equivalent to 75% of the total possible mark for the exam must be obtained to be considered to have passed the exam.	After completing the content, 30 minutes	75% pass mark 50% weighting

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

Reading and Resources for examinable material will be provided within the course content. Some extended readings and resources need to be independently sourced.

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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- Dr Benjamin Carew
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- Dr Victoria Mar
- Dr Jim Muir
- Dr Adam Sheridan
- Associate Professor Peter Soyer

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