



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

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# **Dermatology Australasia and Australasian College of Dermatologists**

## **Course outline:**

Light Related Skin Disease and  
Pigmentation Disorders  
2026



**Dermatology**  
AUSTRALASIA

# 1. Course information

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## 1.1 Course aims

Light reacts with the skin in a number of ways both useful and deleterious. Effects on the skin can range from minor to highly damaging over both short and long time frames.

This course will present an overview of photobiology including:

- the physics of light
- interactions with the skin
- the role of lasers and ionising radiation in dermatological practice.

It will also deal in detail with some of the more common light related skin conditions encountered in general practice.

## 1.2 Learning Outcomes

After completing this module, you should be able to:

1. Identify effects of electromagnetic radiation (EMR) on the skin
2. Determine the function and use of lasers and ionising radiation in treating common skin disorders
3. Identify and describe cutaneous changes that may be associated with Light Related Skin Disease and Pigmentation Disorders
4. Critically analyse clinical cutaneous observations and/or investigations to diagnose Light Related Skin Disease and Pigmentation Disorders
5. Plan and develop treatment and management regimens appropriate to Light Related Skin Disease and Pigmentation Disorders
6. Assess when to refer a patient on to a specialist dermatologist

### 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 Light Related Skin Disease and Pigmentation Disorders.
- **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.
  - Photobiology
  - Specific Light Related Skin Conditions
- **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 Light Related Skin Disease and Pigmentation Disorders. 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 2. 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 35-minute examination with 17 case-based questions.
- **Post-course Self Reflection:** completed after starting the course and includes a self-rating of your acquired skills and knowledge about Light Related Skin Disease and Pigmentation Disorders.

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 2 of each year and enrolment in this Trimester is thus encouraged.

The course consists of a total of approximately 13 hours of student effort. Here is a general overview of how long items may take:

- 2 hours orientation/planning/pre- and post-reflection exercises
- 5 hours online learning
- 1 hour live webinar
- 2 hours Case Discussion Forum
- 4 hours Case Study Submission
- 0.5 hours Final Online Exam
- 0.5 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. Photobiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• light and its properties</li><li>• lasers and,</li><li>• ionising radiation</li></ul>
2. Specific Light Related Skin Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Photo damage</li><li>• Polymorphous light eruptions</li><li>• Porphyria</li><li>• Vitiligo</li><li>• Idiopathic guttate hypomelanosis</li><li>• Freckles and lentigines</li><li>• Melasma</li></ul>

### 3. Assessment

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#### 3.1 Assessment tasks

Tasks	Task Description	Time	Weighting
<b>Quizzes &amp; Practice Scenarios</b>	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
<b>Webinar</b>	Attend the live or view the recorded webinar		Compulsory to complete
<b>Case Discussion Forum</b>	Reply to at all the available cases	Throughout enrolment	10%
<b>Case Study Submission x 2</b>	500 words on relevant LRSDPD case	No later than 2 weeks before Trimester end	75% pass mark 40% weighting
<b>Final Online Exam</b>	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, 35 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.

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## 5. Administrative matters

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

For further information or questions about the course, please contact [enquiries@dermatologyaustralia.com.au](mailto: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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The Light Related Skin Disease and Pigmentation Disorders course has been developed by fellows of the Australasian College of Dermatologists. We particularly thank the dermatologists who have written and reviewed the course materials and supplied clinical and dermoscopic images, as well as facilitating the case discussion forum and webinars:

- Dr Shivam Kapila
- Dr Amil Jockoo

The course development process has been managed by a GP Skin Cancer Task Force with the following college members:

- Dr Benjamin Carew
- Dr Daniel Hewitt
- Dr Simon Lee
- Dr Victoria Mar
- Dr Jim Muir
- Dr Adam Sheridan
- Associate Professor Peter Soyer

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