Dermatology Australasia and Australasian College of Dermatologists

Course outline:
Practical Dermoscopy

2026

1. Course information

1.1 Course aims

Australia and New Zealand have the highest rates of melanoma in the world. The vast majority of this is treated within general practice. Crucial to management of skin malignancy is accurate diagnosis. Dermoscopy allows the detection of clinical features invisible to the naked eye and has been well shown to increase the diagnostic accuracy of users.

In the *Practical Dermoscopy* course, GPs put dermoscopy theory into practice and develop a thorough understanding of how dermoscopy can be used to manage patients with cutaneous neoplasia.

Practical dermoscopy is facilitated by leading dermatologists. It is delivered in a blended learning mode of self-paced online learning, an asynchronous virtual clinic which simulates the outpatients' clinic online, and a one-day face-to-face workshop. Clinical scenarios are used extensively in the course. These will ensure that participants have a wide range of clinical experience on which to draw to manage their own patients.

1.2 Learning objectives (LOs)

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

LO 1: Execute a full-skin examination

LO 2: Choose appropriate morphologic descriptors to describe features of skin lesions visible to the naked eye

LO 3: Describe the principles of using a dermatoscope

LO 4: Describe the concept of dermoscopic-histopathology correlation

LO 5: Assess the significance of dermoscopic features of skin lesions

LO 6: Choose appropriate dermoscopic terminology to describe skin lesions when viewed through a dermatoscope

LO 7: Evaluate the significance of dermoscopic features of skin lesions

LO 8: Recommend a provisional diagnosis of skin lesions based on their morphological and dermoscopic features

LO 9: Formulate a first-step management plan based on a combination of clinical information, morphology and dermoscopic features of suspicious skin lesions

LO 10: Determine systems for monitoring and follow-up of patients with suspicious skin lesions

1.3 Learning and teaching activities

The course is organised into five components.

- **Pre-learning activities:** are completed prior to starting the course and include a self-rating of your current skills and knowledge about dermoscopy.

- **Self-paced online modules**: There are six self-paced online modules. These cover the essential content and take you through the process of taking a skin history, conducting a full skin check, describing the visible features of skin lesions using morphological descriptors, understanding the science behind dermoscopy, using dermoscopic descriptors to describe lesions, making a diagnosis and differential diagnosis and developing treatment and management options for patients with cutaneous neoplasia. The six modules are:

  1. History, examination and lighting
  2. Morphology of skin lesions
  3. Science behind dermoscopy
  4. Dermoscopy basics
  5. Histopathologic correlation
  6. Choice of biopsy method

- **Clinical Case Studies**: GPs participate in the clinical case studies at the same time as completing the online modules. It is a very practical component of the course where participants put theory into practice. Real cases are posted and participants are challenged to provide a diagnosis and first-step management plan based on clinical information, clinical images and dermoscopy.

- **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.

- **Webinars***: 4 live webinars are held as part of this course. Attending the interactive virtual teaching sessions (webinars) is a compulsory component of the course and it is expected that a minimum attendance rate of 50% (2 out of 4 webinars) is maintained.

- **Face to Face Workshop**: Participation in a one-day face-to-face workshop is available once the online modules are completed. Satisfactory completion of the workshop is a compulsory component of the course.

- **Final Assessment**: The final assessment for the subject is an online 2-hour examination.

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 an integral part of the face-to-face workshop and are used to assess the application of knowledge and skills in the end-of-topic tests and final examination.

2. Course Structure and Outline

CPD Hours

	Total Hours	Educational Activities	Performance Review Activities	Outcome Measurement Activities
RACGP CPD Hours	54	24	24	6
ACRRM PDP Hours	57	24	27	6

This course is delivered over a 16 - week period and is self-paced.

The course consists of a total of approximately 30-50 hours of student effort. This is broken down into:

- 8-15 hours of online/self-directed learning including assessments
- 10-20 hours clinic case studies
- 3-5 hours Case Discussion Forum
- 8 hours of face-to-face contact hours via workshop
- Final 2-hour exam online consisting of cases similar to the case discussion forum

The table below provides approximate hours required for each topic:

Topic	Activities	Estimated time
Introduction	• Online/self-directed learning module • Pre-learning questionnaire about what you are hoping to achieve in this course • Pre-learning quiz about what you already know about dermoscopy	1 hour
History, examination and lighting	• Online/self-directed learning module • Online end of topic test	2 hours
Morphology of skin lesions	• Online/self-directed learning module • Online end of topic test	2 hours
Science behind dermoscopy	• Online/self-directed learning module • Online end of topic test	2 hours
Dermoscopy basics	• Online/self-directed learning module • Online end of topic test	4 hours
Histopathological correlations	• Online/self-directed learning module • Online end of topic test	2 hours

Choice of biopsy method	• Online/self-directed learning module • Online end of topic test	2 hours
Clinic Case Studies	• 4 sets of 10 cases are available for students to work through at their own pace	10-20 hours
Case Discussion Forum	• Answers to at least 6 cases in the forum need to be provided	2-5 hours
Face-to-face workshop	• One-day weekend workshop • Possible skills assessment and quiz	8 hours
Final assessment	• Preparation for final assessment • 2 hour online examination consisting of 20 cases	5 hours
Post course reflection	• Self-reflection questionnaire about what you have learnt in this course and how it met your expectations	1 hour

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment tasks

Assessment task	Length	Weight
Assessment 1: Online end of module tests - Students must achieve a score of 80% in each topic test (modules 2-6 only)	5 hours	10%
Assessment 2: Clinic Case Studies – Students participate and complete the clinical case studies online	10-20 hours	20%
Assessment 3: Case Discussion Forum - Answers to at least 6 cases in the forum need to be provided	2-5 hours	10%
Assessment 4: Attendance at face-to-face workshop - Attendance at workshop is compulsory for this course	8 hours	10%
Assessment 5: Online final examination – this will consist of 20 cases for which students provide a favoured diagnosis and differential diagnosis supported by an analysis of dermoscopy. A mark of 75% is required.	2 hours	50%

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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@dermatologyaustralasia.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.

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