



THE AUSTRALASIAN COLLEGE OF DERMATOLOGISTS

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Dermatology Australasia and Australasian College of Dermatologists

**Course outline:
Practical Therapies Basic**

2026



Dermatology
AUSTRALASIA

1. Course information

1.1 Course aims

This course aims to provide General Practitioners with the skills and knowledge to perform basic and dermatological surgery and procedures and how to manage surgical risk and complications.

The course is delivered in a self-paced online learning mode and you will be required to complete the weekly topic case scenarios and/or assessment tasks, a case study and a final online exam.

These assessments will ensure that participants have a wide range of clinical experience on which to draw upon when managing their own patients.

1.2 Learning objectives (LOs)

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

LO1: Describe how to perform basic dermatological surgery and procedures (cryotherapy, biopsies, electrodesiccation and curettage, intralesional steroid injection, and suturing).

LO2: Determine the appropriate circumstances in which to perform basic dermatological surgery and procedures.

LO3: Assess the risks and complications relating to basic dermatological surgery and procedures.

LO4: Determine when and how to use non-surgical treatments for skin cancer.

LO5: Determine ways surgical risk may be managed.

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 students current skills and knowledge about basic dermatological surgery and procedures.
- **Self-paced online modules:** There are four 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.
 - Cryotherapy
 - Intralesional steroids
 - Biopsy techniques
 - Curettage & Cautery
 - Non-Surgical treatments of skin cancer
 - Cutaneous surgical anatomy & danger zones
 - Patient management pre and post operatively
- **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.
- **Webinar:** This course includes 1 evening webinar per Trimester. Each trimester a different set of cases will be presented, and the webinars will be recorded. Please note that it is compulsory to attend 1 live webinar (in the trimester that you are enrolled in) and watch at least 1 of the recordings from other trimesters.
- **Case Study Submission:** In approximately 500 – 600 words students need to submit a case from their practice that is relevant to practical therapies. 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.
- **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 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 over a 16 - week period and is self-paced.

The course (Basic) consists of a total of approximately 28 hours of student effort. This is broken down into the following:

- 2 hours orientation/planning/pre- and post-reflection exercises
- 14 hours online learning and Topic Scenarios (where appropriate)
- 4 hours Case Discussion Forum
- 2 hours Live webinars
- 2 hours Case Study
- 2 hours Final Online Exam
- 2 hour additional reading

CPD Hours

	Total Hours	Educational Activities	Performance Review Activities	Outcome Measurement Activities
RACGP CPD Hours	28	18	8	2
RACGP PDP Hours	28	18	8	2

The seven topics within this course include:

1. Cryotherapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• When to use Cryotherapy• Cryotherapy Delivery• Cryotherapy Treatment• Cryotherapy Benefits and Effects• Cryotherapy Management• Performing Cryotherapy
2. Intralesional steroids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical Overview• Treatment
3. Biopsy techniques	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical Overview• Types of Biopsies<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punch biopsy• Shave biopsy• Curette biopsy• Incisional biopsy• Excisional biopsy
4. Curettage & Cautery	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Clinical Overview
5. Non-Surgical treatments of skin cancer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction• Clinical Overview• Non-surgical treatments Part 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-surgical treatments Part 2
6. Cutaneous surgical anatomy & danger zones I & II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction • Clinical Overview • Basic Anatomy of the Skin • Sensory Nerves • Motor Nerves • Arteries • Special Anatomical Sites • Other Danger Zones
7. Patient management pre and post operatively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of Anaesthetics • Sutures, Knots and Suturing • Elliptical Excisions • Wound Dressing

3. Assessment

3.1 Assessment tasks

Topic	Assessment Task	Time	Weighting
1. Cryotherapy	15 minutes (not timed) 15 T/F or MCQ 2 attempts	At end of topic	75% pass mark 5% weighting
2. Intralesional Steroids	15 minutes (not timed) 15 T/F or MCQ 2 attempts	At end of topic	75% pass mark 5% weighting
3. Biopsy Techniques	15 minutes (not timed) 15 T/F or MCQ 2 attempts	At end of topic	75% pass mark 5% weighting
4. Curettage & Cautery	15 minutes (not timed) 10 T/F or MCQ 2 attempts	At end of topic	75% pass mark 5% weighting
5. Non-surgical Treatments	15 minutes (not timed) 15 T/F or MCQ 2 attempts	At end of topic	75% pass mark 5% weighting
6. Cutaneous surgical anatomy & danger zones	15 minutes (not timed) 9 T/F or MCQ 2 attempts	At end of topic	75% pass mark 5% weighting
7. Patient Management	60 minutes (not timed) 55 T/F or MCQ 2 attempts	At end of topic	75% pass mark 10% weighting
Case Discussion Forum	Reply to at least 6 cases	Throughout enrolment	10% weighting
Webinars	2 live webinars per Trimester	See Important Dates section	5% weighting
Case Study Submission	500 words on relevant PTB case	No later than 2 weeks before Trimester end	75% pass mark 20% weighting
Final Online Exam	100 MCQ 2 hrs to complete – timed 2 attempts to pass	After all topics completed	75% pass mark 25% 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](#).

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