Dermatology Eponyms – sign –Lexicon (S). Part II

Piotr Brzeziński¹, Uwe Wollina², Leonardo Espinoza-Benavides³, Patricia Chang⁴, Mariem Mohamed⁵, Stephen A. Geller⁶,⁷

¹Institute of Biology and Environmental Protection, Department of Cosmetology, Pomeranian Academy, Słupsk, Poland, ²Department of Dermatology and Allergology, Städtisches Klinikum Dresden, Academic Teaching Hospital Dresden-Friedrichstadt, Dresden, Germany, ³Dermatology Resident at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Chile, ⁴Department of Dermatology, Hospital General de Enfermedades IGSS and Hospital Ángeles, Guatemala, ⁵Dermatology Department, Fattouma Bourguiba University Hospital, Monastir 5000, Tunisia, ⁶Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine – David Geffen School of Medicine – University of California, Los Angeles/CA, USA, ⁷Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine – Weill Cornell Medical College, New York/NY, USA

Corresponding author: Dr. Piotr Brzeziński, MD PhD, E-mail: brzezoo77@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Eponyms are used almost daily in the clinical practice of dermatology. And yet, information about the person behind the eponyms is difficult to find. Indeed, who is? What is this person’s nationality? Is this person alive or dead? How can one find the paper in which this person first described the disease? Eponyms are used to describe not only disease, but also clinical signs, surgical procedures, staining techniques, pharmacological formulations, and even pieces of equipment. In this article we present the symptoms starting with (S) and other. The symptoms and their synonyms, and those who have described this symptom or phenomenon.

Key words: Eponyms; Skin diseases; Sign; Phenomenon

Short Neck Sign

Sign seen in Klippel-Feil or Turner’s syndromes [1].

Shrinking Dark Sign

Horrible rapid dehydration associated with a form of cholera in India, in which victims appeared to shrink and their capillaries burst, coloring the skin black and blue [2].

Shrunken Skin Sign

The lower jaw tremors and whole skin appears shrunken with dark rings under the eyes. A sign of malarial infection with Plasmodium falciparum [3].

Shuster’s Sign

Scarring of the concha due to lesions of discoid lupus erythematosus is called as Shuster’s sign and it can be present in 30% of the cases [4].

Shwartzman’s Sign

A severe hemorrhagic reaction with necrosis, observed in rabbits which are firstly injected with 0.25 ml. of typhoid or certain other culture filtrates into the skin of the abdomen and which then twenty-four (eighteen to thirty-two) hours later are injected intravenously with 0.01 ml. of the same filtrate. The site of the later injection turns blue at the center and red at the periphery, the skin is glossy, smooth, and edematous, the blood vessels below the surface are ruptured and the numerous leukocytes are dead [5].

Gregory Shwartzman


Siberian Sign

North Asian zoonotic tickborne rickettsiosis. Found in the Chinese, Mongolian, and Siberian wild rodent populations [6].

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Silex’s Sign

Furrows radiating from the mouth. A sign seen in inherited syphilis (congenital syphilis) [7].

Paul Silex

German ophthalmologist, 1858-1929 (Fig. 1), is known for contributions made involving war-related blindness. He studied medicine at the Universities of Halle, Berlin and Breslau, obtaining his doctorate in 1883. Afterwards he served as an assistant to ophthalmologist Ludwig Laqueur in Strasbourg, followed by several years as an assistant to Karl Ernst Theodor Schweigger in Berlin. He received his habilitation in 1890, becoming an associate professor in 1897. In Berlin he opened a private clinic at St. Maria Victoria-Krankenhaus [8].

Silver Eye Sign

A blue deposit of silver in the skin, caused by exposure to silver dusts or salts. Often appears as a gray blue haze in the white of the eye. Also known as Argyria sign [9].

Sinbis Sign

Fever with a rash that can progress to hemorrhagic, as well polyarthritis and muscle pains. Caused by a zoonotic alphavirus spread by the bite of infected mosquitos [10].

Sister Marie Joseph Sign

This is a metastatic umbilical lesion secondary to a primary malignancy of any viscer, stomach and colon being most common in men, and ovary in women (Fig. 2) [28].

Sisto’s Sign

Constant crying as a sign of congenital syphilis in infancy [11,12].

Genero Sisto

Argentinean paediatrician, 1870-1923, although some sources say that Genero Sisto was a Chilean Pediatrician and only more mentions a Dr Sisto being from Spain. But the vast majority of informations reveals that Genaro Sisto was actually from Argentina. His name can also be written “Jenaro Sixto”.

He graduated from Medical School in 1985, presenting a thesis about Poliomyelitis. He then specialized as a Pediatrician in Europe. As he returned to his country of origin, he became professor of his specialty at the Medical Faculty. Concurrently, he joined the “Cuerpo Médico Escolar” (Unit of School Physicians) where he had a renowned career that culminated with his appointment as Director. His actions regarding Schools’ Health moved him to implement highly developed measures as they showed their effective results. Some of these measures were: the improvement of children’s nutrition by the “gota de leche” (“drop of milk”) provision and the school cafeterias, clothing for the students in need, the creation of Cooperative Associations, the inauguration of new doctors’ school practices with medical specialties, vaccination campaigns, the expansion of the “aldea sanitaria” (“healthy village”) concept, as well as special teaching methods and the treatment of “feeble kids”. He was recognized by the Parisian Medical Academy and kept assisting international congresses related to his specialty (Sánchez, 2007, p. 517-518).
Currently, the Medical School of the University of Buenos Aires awards the Genaro Sisto Award triennially to the best original work about Children and Adolescent pathology or hygiene. A primary school in Buenos Aires carries his name [13].

**Skimmer Sign**

Sign in Kerion Celsi (Fig. 3), which consists in observing the exit of pus for each of the orifices of the hair follicles when doing lateral pressure on the area [29].

**Skoptzy Sign**

A sign of horrific religious castration of both men and women in Russia and Romania, which can include applying fire to the breasts as well as amputation of the breasts [14].

**Skunk Boil Sign**

Leptospirosis infection. Also known as Possum sign [15].

**Slate Grey Sign**

Slate grey colouration of the skin secondary to melanin and haemosiderin deposition. A sign of haemochromatosis [16].

**Smith’s Teeth Sign**

The teeth are often inerusted with a brownish matter, which adheres to them closely near the gums. A sign indicating typhous fever [17].

**Smith’s Tongue Sign**

The tongue in the commencement of this fever is covered with a white fur, which as the disease advances assumes a yellow tinge, and from that gradually changes to a brown, which eventually becomes almost black. Arrived at this State, it cracks and peels off, leaving the tongue smooth, dry and very red. It is then again renewed and again comes off, making these changes, in severe cases, several times in the course of the disease. A sign indicating typhous fever [17].

**Nathan Smith**

American physician, 1762-1828 (Fig. 4). One of New England’s best-known and respected physicians. He was a skilled surgeon, teacher, writer, and practitioner. He single-handedly founded Dartmouth Medical School, and co-founded the University of Vermont College of Medicine, the medical school at Bowdoin College, and the Yale School of Medicine. Smith decided to study medicine at age 24, after seeing an operation performed by Dr. Josiah Goodhue. Smith spent three years with Dr. Goodhue at Putney, Vermont, then opened his own practice at Cornish, New Hampshire. He later went to the Harvard College’s medical department where he obtained his MB in 1790. In 1803 Smith had gone to the University of Edinburgh where he attended medical classes for a year.

Smith founded the medical department at Dartmouth College. Initially the only member of the Dartmouth Medical School faculty, Smith taught anatomy, chemistry, surgery, and clinical medicine. He essentially served as dean and treasurer of the medical school, also. Smith emphasized experience rather than theory, and he largely eschewed bleeding and purging, favoring support of the body’s own healing powers and attentiveness to the patient’s comfort. Using these principles, he was a consultant on the child Joseph

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**Figure 3:** Skimmer sign.  
**Figure 4:** Nathan Smith
Smith, the future founder of the Latter Day Saint movement, saving his leg from amputation.

At Yale Smith was the first professor of physic, surgery and obstetrics [18].

**Sodoku Sign**

Japanese rat bite fever [19].

**Spargana Sign**

Nodular, cystic skin lesions that may be inflamed and itchy, can have eye and CNS involvement. Caused by exposure to cat or dog faeces containing eggs from the zoonotic *Spirometra* tapeworm. These pseudophyllidean cestodes can have many hosts including monkeys, snakes, frogs, pigs, and weasels [20].

**Spedalskhed Sign**

Leprosy.

**Spark plug Sign**

Brocq methodically scraping is a clinical diagnostic method of psoriasis and is scraping by a teaspoon of plaque psoriasis with what you get initially the formation of small white flakes in the form of chips.

Sign of the spark plug or wax stain, because of its similarity to the material obtained by scratching a wax candle

**Spider Sign**

The spider angioma of liver cirrhosis [21].

**Spoon Nail Sign**

Spoon-shaped finger nails, dysphagia, and glossitis. A sign of Plummer-Vinson syndrome, iron deficiency anaemia, and hepatic disease (Fig. 5). Also called koilonychia [22].

**Henry Stanicy Plummer**

American physician, 1874-1937.

Henry Stanley Plummer, M.D. (1874-1936), was a prominent internist and endocrinologist who, along with William Mayo, Charles Mayo, Stinchfield, E. Starr Judd, Christopher Graham, and Donald Balfour founded Mayo Clinic (Fig. 6).

Plummer’s work in internal medicine and endocrinology led to several advances important advances in the specialty, including: Plummer-Vinson syndrome, Plummer’s nails, treatment of goiters with iodine, Plummer’s disease, and Plummer’s sign (used for diagnosis of Graves’ disease).

He also directed the development of Mayo’s clinical laboratories, as well as bringing in Louis B. Wilson in 1907 to develop and manage the diagnostic and research labs, and was the first to utilize X-ray machines as a diagnostic tool at the Clinic. Will Mayo called Plummer “a pioneer in the development of X-ray diagnosis and therapy”. But, perhaps one of his greatest contributions to medicine was the development and implementation of the integrated private medical group practice.

Plummer is considered by many to be the “architect of the modern medical practice.” His innovative contributions to medical systems and building designs, as well as his early understanding of the importance of the diagnostic and research aspects of the clinical practice, allowed for the creation of the integrated group practice, as well as medical specialization [23].

**Figure 5:** Spoon Nail sign.

**Figure 6:** Henry Stanicy Plummer.
Porter Paisley Vinson

American physician (1890-1959), was a surgeon at the Mayo Clinic. He was a doctor of Bronchoscopy. Vinson is best known for his contribution to medicine in the study of Plummer–Vinson syndrome. There is an award given in his name to promising students in Chemistry at Davidson College, NC [23].

Stairs Sign

Difficulty in descending a stairway. A sign found with locomotor ataxia or tabes dorsalis [11,24-27].

Stafne’s Sign

Stafne’s sign is seen in progressive systemic sclerosis. Widening of the periodontal ligament space secondary to increase in the collagen synthesis and increase in the bulk of the ligament, this is accommodated at the expense of alveolar bone, thus causing an increase in the width of the periodontal ligament space [30]. The sign was described by Edward C Stafne.

Steinhausen’ Sign

Ichthyosis, morbid development of the papillae and thickening of the epidermic lamellae [26]. Also called Porcupine sign.

Sticker’s Sign

Synonim of erythema infectiosum [31].

Georg Matthias Martin Josef Sticker

German physician (Fig. 7), 1860-1960. He was a German internist, epidemiologist and medical historian.

From 1880 he studied medicine at the Universities of Strasbourg, Bonn and Göttingen. In late March 1884, he received his doctorate in Bonn with a topic in the field of anatomy (description of a skull with obsolete traumatic unilateral mandibular dislocation). From 1884 to 1887 he worked as an assistant to the internist Franz Riegel at the University of Giessen, was already in 1886 initially in Weilburg and then from 1887 to 1895 settled in Cologne as a practicing physician. From 1895 Sticker was the assistant professor for medical history at the University of Giessen as a polyclinic assistant. In 1895 he habilitated there for the subject of internal medicine. In Gießen he was also appointed in 1898 as an associate professor.

In 1897 he had been one of the participants in the German expedition led by Georg Gaffky and Robert Koch, which had been sent to Bombay to investigate the bubonic plague that had erupted there. Sticker was able to identify flea and rat as intermediaries of the epidemic.

In 1899 he was the first to describe the Ringelröteln. From 1920 he taught as a full honorary professor at the University of Münster. In 1922 he became a successor to Friedrich Helfreich (1842-1927), who had taught 1896-1919 as Extraordinarius “History of Medicine, Medical Geography and Medical Statistics”, full professor of the history of medicine at the University of Würzburg [32].

Straus’ Sign

The injection of pilocarpine in facial paralysis due to a central lesion does not cause any difference in the perspiration of the two sides; but if the paralysis be of peripheral origin, the secretion of the paralyzed side is markedly affected [33]. The sign was described by Isidore Straus (1854-1896) who was a French physician.

Strawberry Tongue Sign

The surface of the tongue is coated with a thick white fur, through which protrude bright scarlet red papillae. A sign indicating scarlet fever. Also known as White Strawberry Tongue.

String of beads Sign

Synonim of Linear IgA Bullous Disease. In this disease round or oval blisters filled with clear fluid may arise.
from normal-looking skin or from red flat or elevated patches. The blisters may be small (vesicles) or large (bullae). Typically, the blisters are arranged in rings (annular lesions) and they may form a target shape. The tendency for new blisters to arise in a ring around an old one is called the string of beads sign, and groups of small blisters may be described as a cluster of jewels [34,35].

**Strychnine Sign**

Feeling of suffocation, tetanic convulsions with arched back and blueness of the face, accompanied by raised eyebrows and an evil open grin, called risus sardonicas [35]. A sign indicating poisoning with strychnine. This presentation is similar to signs of a tetanus infection caused by the anaerobic bacterium Clostridium tetani, an important differential is the time between infection and showing the first signs in tetanus is at least five days, whereas strychnine poisoning shows signs ten to twenty minutes after exposure. Also known as Nux Vomica sign after the evergreen tree it is derived from named Strychnos nux vomica.

**Sudden whitening of the hair Sign**

Marie Antoinette syndrome designates the condition in which scalp hair suddenly turns white. The name alludes to the unhappy Queen Marie Antoinette of France (1755-1793), whose hair allegedly turned white the night before her last walk to the guillotine during the French Revolution. She was 38 years old when she died. Although the actual incidence is rare, this stigmatizing phenomenon, which has captured storytellers’ imagination like few other afflictions, occurs to protagonists as a sign of grave sorrow in religious texts as early as the Talmud. History also records that the hair of the English martyr Sir Thomas More (1478-1535) turned white overnight in the Tower of London before his execution. More modern accounts refer to the turning white of hair in survivors of bomb attacks during World War II. In 1957, an American dermatologist witnessed a 63-year-old man’s hair turn white over several weeks after he had fallen down some stairs. The patient noticed loss of hair but no bald patches and 17 months later had extensive vitiligo. The term canities subita has also been used for this disorder. Today, the syndrome is interpreted as an acute episode of diffuse alopecia areata in which the very sudden “overnight” graying is caused by the preferential loss of pigmented hair in this supposedly immune-mediated disorder. This observation has led some experts to hypothesize that the autoimmune target in alopecia areata may be related to the melanin pigment system [37].

**Sulphuric Sign**

Burning pains in mouth and throat with vomit containing white lumps of mucous and altered brown or black blood. Stains on skin and mucous membranes appear bright white, brown or black and stains clothing brown [38]. A sign of sulphuric acid poisoning.

**Summer Sign**

Characterized by several of the following abnormalities: lack of sweat and sebaceous glands, distress in warm weather, total or partial anodontia, defective hair, and saddle-type nose [39]. Signs of ectodermal dysplasia, an X-linked recessive trait.

**Sunbed suntan sacroscapular sparing Sign**

Rowland Payne described this sparing sign in connection with the use of sunbeds. The patients are usually young females having a distinct type of uniform tan on body that spares a palm sized area over sacrum and smaller symmetrical areas over the scapular regions on back. The reason is said to be due to skin blanching by vitropression, while lying on transparent tanning bed surface. Since UVA-induced delayed pigmentation is an oxygen-dependent process, the pressure sites are spared of the tan [40].

**Sutton Sign**

Halo nevi or Sutton nevi are common benign skin lesions that represent melanocytic nevi in which an inflammatory infiltrate develops, resulting in a zone of depigmentation surrounding the nevus [41,42]. Sutton originally described the lesion in 1916 as leukoderma acquisita centrifugum.

**Richard Lightburn Sutton**

American dermatologist (Fig. 8), 1878-1952. He is known as the namesake for Sutton’s disease, also known as aphthous ulceration, or canker sores. He worked as a physician in Kansas City from 1905 until his retirement in 1940 [43].
REFERENCE

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