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MNEMONICS IN DERMATOPATHOLOGY

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A mnemonic is any learning technique that aids information retention [1,2]. This technique of learning has been used in all the sciences including medicine. In dermatology, in particular, many mnemonics were made and used by many residents during their training periods and afterward [1]. As an evidence of its effectiveness dermatology textbooks, like Requisites in Dermatology: Dermatopathology incorporated these mnemonics.

However many mnemonics are, not popular, not very inclusive, not important, complicated, long, not easy to remember or not user friendly; and hence such mnemonics are not used frequently.

In Table I, I listed few mnemonics in dermatopathology, which I thought may be useful.

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- 3. Walters DM, Little SC, Hessler RB, Gourin CG: Small cell carcinoma of the submandibular gland: a rare small round blue cell tumor. Am J Otolaryngol. 2007;28:118-21.

The mnemonics	Remarks
HAAPPIED	Herpes getationis
(for conditions with eosinophilic	Arthropod bite
spongiosis)	Allergic contact dermatitis
	Pemphigus
	Pemphigoid
	Incontinentia pigmenti
	Erythema toxicum (spongiosis adjacent to follicle)
	D rug
LEMONS (for the differential diagnoses of small round blue cell tumors) [3]	Lymphoma Ewing sarcoma Melanoma, Olfactory / Other (esthesioneuroblastomas, rhabdomyosarcoma or Markel cell carcinoma) Neuroblastoma Small cell carcinoma "MR. LEMONS", might refer to a similar thing;
	Melanoma
	Rhabdomyosarcoma
	Lymphoma Ewing's sarcoma
	Meduloblastoma
	Olfactory
	Neuroblastoma
Table I. Selected mnemonics in de	Small cell (oat cell)

Table I. Selected mnemonics in dermatopathology

The mnemonics	Remarks
Life Can Get Complicated (for the types of necrosis)	Liquifactive Coagulation Gangrene Caseous 'Life' used since necrosis is 'death'
3 M (cytological changes of herpes infection)	Multinucleation Molding, nuclear Margination of nuclear chromatin
PLAID (for conditions with subepidermal split, and neutrophils stuffed in dermal papillae)	Pemphigoid (bullous) Lupus (bullous SLE) Acquista (Epidermolysis Bullosa Acquista) IgA, linear Dermatitis herpetiformis
PTICS (for conditions with neutrophils in the stratum corneum)	Psoriasis Tinea Impetigo Candida Syphilis

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