

An Approach to Rashes

Murphy-Lavoie H, LeGros TL. Emergent Diagnosis of the Unknown Rash.
Emergency Medicine. 2010 March.
(www.emedmag.com/html/pre/cov/covers/042030006.asp)



Rash descriptors

Lesion	Single small diseased area
Rash	Eruption of skin; more than single lesion
Macule	Circumscribed area of change without elevation
Papule	Solid raised lesion < 1 cm
Nodule	Solid raised lesion ≥ 1 cm
Plaque	Circumscribed elevated confluence of papules ≥ 1 cm
Pustule	Circumscribed area containing pus
Vesicle	Circumscribed fluid-filled area < 1 cm
Bulla	Circumscribed fluid-filled area ≥ 1 cm
Petechia	Small red/brown macule ≤ 1 cm that does not blanch

Quick profiling of rash

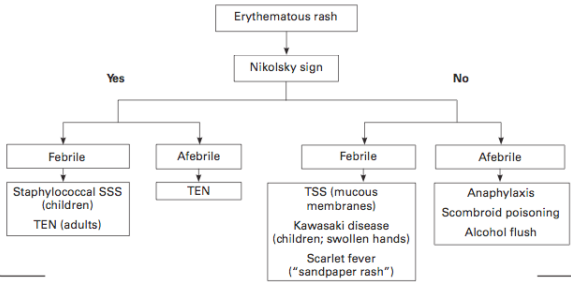
Patient age	0-5 yrs 65 yrs	Meningococcemia, Kawasaki dz, viral exanthema Pemphigus vulgaris, sepsis, meningococcemia, TEN, SJS, TSS
Rash	Diffuse erythema Mucosal lesions Petechiae/purpura	Staph SSS, staph/strep TSS, necrotiz fasciitis EM major, TEN, SJS pemphigus vulgaris Meningococcemia, necrotiz fasciitis, vasculitis, DIC, RMSF
Symptom	Hypotension	Meningococcemia, TSS, RMSF, TEN, SJS

Abbreviations

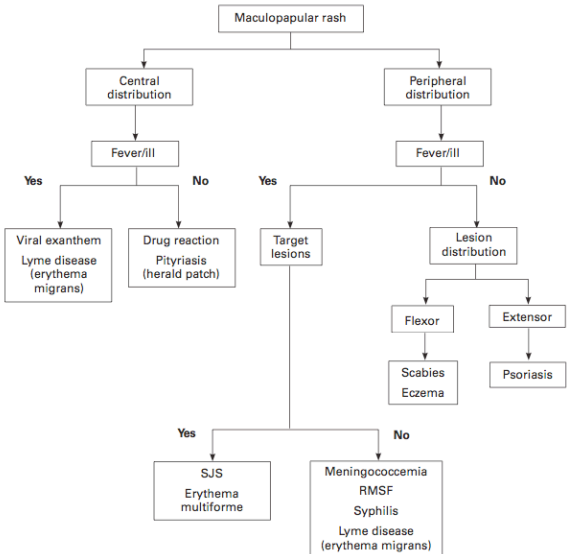
TEN: Toxic epidermal necrolysis
SJS: Steven-Johnson syndrome
TSS: toxic shock syndrome

SSS: scalded skin syndrome
DIC: dissemi intravascular coagulopathy
RMSF: Rocky Mt spotted fever

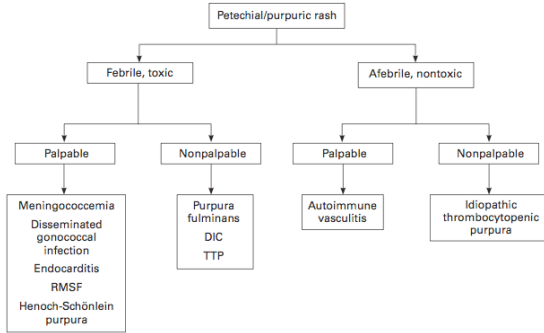
Diagnosing: Erythematous Rash



Diagnosing: Maculopapular Rash



Diagnosing: Petechial / Purpuric Rash



Diagnosing: Vesiculobullous Rash

