

Acne: Pathogenesis, therapy and social effects

(Book Chapter)

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Abstract

Acne vulgaris is a common skin condition with substantial cutaneous and psychologic disease burden. The emotional impact of acne is comparable to that experienced by patients with systemic diseases, like diabetes and epilepsy. Its pathophysiology is multifactorial and complex, including obstruction of the pilosebaceous unit due to increased sebum production, abnormal keratinization, proliferation of *Propionibacterium* and inflammation. Topical agents (retinoids, benzoyl peroxide and antibiotics) are the most commonly used therapy for acne. New topical therapy, such as photodynamic therapy, has been proposed to increase efficacy when conventional therapies are ineffective. This chapter discusses the etiology, pathogenesis, treatment and psychological impact of acne vulgaris. © 2013 by Nova Science Publishers, Inc. All rights reserved.