

# Short Cases in Dermatology

## INTRODUCTION

Skin problems are a very common reason for patients to attend a primary care clinician. In any one year, self-reported skin disease affects more than 50% of the population and while many do not attend their GP, between 10-15% of all GP consultations are for skin disorders.<sup>1-3</sup> Primary care clinicians develop considerable experience and expertise in managing skin conditions despite limited undergraduate education in this area. Medical students usually receive between one and two weeks of formal education in dermatology of 'widely varying quality'.<sup>4,5</sup> Post-graduate dermatology training in GP speciality training is either 'lacking' or 'very limited'.<sup>1,6</sup>

Despite these limitations and short consultation appointments in general practice, 94% of patients presenting to primary care clinicians with a skin disease do not require onward referral to specialist services.<sup>1</sup>

The aims of this module are

- improved knowledge to aid assessment of patients with
  - chronic pruritus/itch
  - scalp problems
  - hair loss
  - red face
  
- improved knowledge of diagnosis and management of patients with:
  - chronic pruritus not due to rash or systemic disease
  - seborrhoeic dermatitis /eczema of scalp and tinea capitis
  - hair loss
  - rosacea and perioral dermatitis