REACTIVE ERYTHEMAS

I. Urticaria, Angioedema Type I hypersensitivity

Red wheals, plaques with central translucency; pruritic!

Lesions recur in crops and waves, each lasting under 24 hours

**Acute**--under 6 weeks

**Chronic**--over 6 weeks

A. Types:

1. Angio[neurotic]edema--swelling of lips, genitalia, eyelids

2. Contact--rare; DMSO, cinnamates

3. Papular--insect bite reaction

4. Dermographism

5. Hereditary Angioedema--complement mediated

B. Etiology

1. Drugs--antibiotics (PCN, sulfa) salicylates

2. Foods--shellfish, tartrazine dyes

3. Physical Factors--heat, cold, pressure

4. Stress

C. Treatment--antihistamines

1. Steroids

2. epinephrine

II. Erythema Multiforme

Symmetric target "Iris" lesions, often involving palms, soles
Resolving within days to weeks

A. Etiology
   1. Infectious--Herpes virus, mycoplasma, deep fungi
   2. Drugs--phenobarbital, PCN, sulfa

B. Treatment--self limited
   1. ? steroids
   2. antihistamines
   3. treat underlying condition

C. Variants
   1. Steven's Johnson Syndrome
      a Erythema multiforme with bullous, erosive lesions
      b Mucosal involvement
      c Severe, potentially life threatening
   2. Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis
      a Widespread denudation, sloughing of inflamed skin
      b Mortality--over 50%!

III. Erythema Nodosum (panniculitis)
    A. painful subcutaneous nodules on anterior shins, bilaterally
    B. bruising with pink/yellow/purple shiny plaques or nodules
    C. NO ulceration
    D. Etiology: Infectious (viral, Strep, deep fungi)
    E. Drugs (BCP's, PCN)
    F. Inflammatory Bowel Disease
G. Sarcoid

H. Treatment--self limited, lasting up to several weeks
   1. NSAID’s
   2. steroids

IV. Drug Reactions--Type IV hypersensitivity (except urticaria)

   A. Morbilliform--symmetric, pruritic coalescent pink papules and plaques
      1. typically begins within 1 week of new drug
      2. Bactrim, PCN

   B. Urticaria

   C. "Fixed"--phenolphthalein (Ex-Lax); Tetracyclines

   D. Phototoxic--Tetracyclines, Thorazine, NSAID’s

   E. Alopecia--heparin, coumadin

   F. Bullous--griseofulvin, nalidixic acid

   G. Lupus Erythematous--hydralazine, procainamide, INH

   H. Psoriasis--lithium