

Circulation scratch or
an animal bite. it can



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Circulation and the integumentary system display vital roles with each other.

Circulation helps with the regulation function of the integumentary system.

But, how do they interact with each other? The skin and blood vessels don't seem like something that could work together. But, skin and blood vessels play a vital role in regulating the body's temperature. When the body needs to cool down, the blood vessels will widen and bring blood closer to the surface of the skin so that the heat can be released. If the body needs to conserve, it's heat then the blood vessels will narrow and keep the blood from the surface and move it towards vital organs and muscles and warm them up. A skin disorder that I want to talk about is cellulitis. Cellulitis is, "an acute, spreading bacterial infection below the surface of the skin" (CMA, pg.

522). Cellulitis occurs if there is a break in the skin, like if someone gets a bad scratch or an animal bite. It can also be caused by bacteria arriving from somewhere else, through the bloodstream. A couple complications of cellulitis are getting a weakened immune system or getting diabetes. Some symptoms of cellulitis are redness, swelling, warmth, pain, fever, and enlarged lymph nodes.

Treatment for cellulitis are topical and oral antibiotics. Another skin disorder that has to do with the circulatory system is decubitus ulcer. Decubitus ulcer is also known as a bedsore or pressure sore. It is an area of skin or tissue that breaks down and dies because it isn't getting any sort of blood supply.

Patients who usually get this are ones that have been lying in bed for a long time, so maybe someone in a coma or who just had a major surgery. Other people who get these are patients who are in wheelchairs. The ulcers usually

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happen at the coccyx, hips, sacrum, ankles, shoulders, heels, back of the head, and back.

There are four different stages of this disorder. It starts with a reddened area that doesn't turn white when pressed, then it moves on to a blister or open sore, then the skin breaks down and it looks like a crater, and the final stage is that it becomes really deep and causes damage to bone and muscle.

Treatment for decubitus includes repositioning the patient often and cleaning out the wound.

The final skin disorder that I want to talk about is rosacea. Rosacea is a, "disorder that primarily affects the facial skin, often characterized by flare-ups and periods of remission" (pg. 527). This disorder doesn't seem to affect any one group of people, it just happens to anyone. Actually, around fourteen million Americans are affected and a lot of them don't even know it.

Symptoms of rosacea include a redness on the cheeks, nose, chin, or forehead. There are also tiny, but visible, blood vessels on the face or bumps on the face. A person's eyes can be watery or irritated. As time goes on, the redness can become redder and persistent.

There is not a cure for rosacea, but it can be treated with cortisone-based creams and topical antibiotics.