

TABLE 16-6 Differential Diagnosis: Blisters and Pustules in the Newborn

Disease	Usual age	Skin: Morphology
<b>INFECTIOUS CAUSES</b>		
Staphylococcal pyoderma	A few days to weeks	Pustules, bullae, occasional vesicles
Staphylococcal scalded skin syndrome	3-7 days; occasionally older	Erythema, cutaneous tenderness, superficial blisters, erosions
Group A streptococcal disease	A few days to weeks	Isolated pustules, honey-crusted areas
Group B streptococcal disease	At birth or first few days	Vesicles, bullae, erosions, honey-crusted lesions
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	Usually at birth	Hemorrhagic pustules and petechiae
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>	Birth or first few days	Vesicles and crusted areas
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	Days to weeks	Erythema, pustules, hemorrhagic bullae, necrotic ulcerations
Congenital syphilis	Usually at birth	Blisters or erosions on dusky or hemorrhagic base
Congenital candidiasis	At birth or first week	Erythema and fine papules evolve into vesicles and pustules
Neonatal candidiasis	Weeks to months	Scaly red patches with satellite papules and pustules
<i>Aspergillus</i>	5+ days	Morphology: pustules rapidly evolve to other ulcers
Neonatal herpes simplex	Usually 5-14 days	Vesicles, crusts, erosions may be grouped or not; may follow dermatome
Intrauterine herpes simplex	At birth	Vesicles, widespread bullae, erosions, scars, missing skin
Fetal varicella infection	At birth	Usually scarring, limb hypoplasia, erosions
Neonatal varicella	Birth to 14 days	Vesicles on an erythematous base; may be very numerous
Scabies	3-4 weeks or later	Papules, nodules, crusted area
<b>TRANSIENT SKIN LESIONS</b>		
Erythema toxicum neonatorum	Usually 24-48 hr	Erythematous macules, papules, and pustules
Neonatal pustular melanosis	At birth	Pustules without erythema; hyperpigmented macules; some have collarette of scale
Miliaria crystalline	Usually first week of life	Dewdrop-like vesicles, very superficial, no erythema
Miliaria rubra	Days to weeks	Erythematous papules with superimposed pustules
Sucking blisters	At birth	Flaccid bulla or bullae on nonerythematous base
Neonatal acne	3-4 weeks	Comedones, papules, pustules
Skin changes of perinatal/neonatal trauma	Birth to few days	Erosions on scalp, perineal or scalp gangrene (rare)