



TROPICAL DERMATOLOGY

SKIN AND STARVATION - DERMATOLOGICAL SIGNS OF MALNUTRITION

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About eighthundred million people worldwide suffer from hunger and starvation on a daily basis. 500 million of these, in contrast to common belief, do not live in Africa but in Asia. Globally, starvation and its consequences are still the main cause of death for mankind. Protein-energy-malnutrition, deficiency of essential fatty acids, deficiency of trace elements and vitaminoses are important nutritional disorders amongst the poor and malnourished native population in developing countries or amongst refugees. It is crucial to take notice of the ingredients of staple food in different parts of the world. If you know what people in a specific region eat, then you will know which ingredients their diet is missing, and hence which malnutrition disorders you should expect there. This presentation aims to provide an updated overview of what is important to consider as a doctor working with undernourished or malnourished patients all over the world.

