Almost all dermatology patients have a primary/underlying disease which causes secondary infections. The infections must be eliminated and prevented, but will recur unless the primary disease is identified and controlled.

Most skin cases seen in practice can be successfully managed if these 2 question can be answered. Once the etiology of a patients dermatosis is known, it is a simple matter of therapeutic followthrough to resolve the problem.

The recognition of the basic patterns allows a practical approach to most of the common skin diseases.

10 Clinical Patterns

What are the infections? (Always secondary)
1. Folliculitis
2. Pododermatitis
3. Otitis
4. Yeast Dermatitis

Why are they there? (The key to preventing relapse of infections)
5. Pruritus
6. Nonpruritic Alopecia (endocrine)
7. Autoimmune Skin Disease
8. Keratinization Defects
9. Lumps, Bumps, and Draining Tracts
10. Weirdopathies

Case example: 2 year old male Labrador that has seasonal pruritus (foot licking) and a moth-eaten hair coat.

What are the Infections?
- Folliculitis
  - pyoderma, demodex, dermatophyte
- Pododermatitis
  - bacterial, yeast
- Otitis
  - bacterial, yeast
- Yeast dermatitis

Why are they there?
- Allergies
  - Atopy
  - Food allergy
  - Scabies
- Endocrinopathy
  - Hypothyroidism
  - Cushing’s