Dermatopathology
Differential Diagnosis
Acantholysis

Paul K. Shitabata, M.D.
Dermatopathology Institute
### Must Know Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Differentiating Traits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darier’s disease</td>
<td>Prominent parakeratosis above corp ronds and grains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grover’s disease</td>
<td>Multiple patterns of acantholysis (Darier’s, Hailey-Hailey, pemphigus) and spongiosis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hailey-Hailey disease</td>
<td>Majority of epidermis involved by acantholysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herpes virus infection</td>
<td>Ballooning degeneration, multinucleated cells with chromatin margination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pemphigus foliaceus</td>
<td>Granular prominent with acantholysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pemphigus vulgaris</td>
<td>Acantholysis above tombstoned basal layer, follicles may be involved</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Squamous cell carcinoma, adenoid type</td>
<td>Acantholysis and squamous pearls, atypical keratinocytes and mitoses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Warty dyskeratoma</td>
<td>Cup-shaped area of acantholytic dyskeratosis, villi at base</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Rarer Diseases

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disease</th>
<th>Differentiating Traits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>