

# Dermatopathology Differential Diagnosis Acantholysis

Paul K. Shitabata, M.D.  
Dermatopathology Institute

# Must Know Diseases

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

# Rarer Diseases

Disease	Differentiating Traits