A papule (ˈpæpjuːl/)[1] is a circumscribed, solid elevation of skin with no visible fluid, varying in size from a pinhead to 1 cm.[2][nb 1] It can be brown, purple, pink or red in color, and can cluster into a papular rash. Papules may open when scratched and become infected and crusty.[3] Larger non-blisterform elevated lesions may be termed nodules.

Papules may have different shapes and are sometimes associated with other features such as crusts or scales.

### Contents

- 1 Causal diseases
- 2 See also
- 3 Footnotes
- 4 References

### Causal diseases

There are many skin diseases which develop papules, such as Lichen planus, a skin disease which classically forms polygonal, purple papules.

### See also

- Pearly penile papules
- Skin lesion
- Skin disease
- List of cutaneous conditions

### Footnotes

1. With regard to the quote "...varying in size from a pinhead to 1cm," depending on which text is referenced, some authors state the cutoff between a papule and a plaque as 0.5cm, not 1cm, while others state an entirely different measurement. Therefore, for this article, the 1cm cutoff is used which is discussed in Andrews' Diseases of the Skin: Clinical Dermatology (see references), a work considered by some dermatologists as an authority on this subject matter. See Lack of Standardization for complete discussion.

### References
Papule


Categories: Dermatologic terminology

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