

Dermatomyositis Diagnosis Criteria

Patient Information

Patient Name:

Assigned Healthcare Practitioner:

Skin Symptoms

- Heliotrope rash
- Periungual telangiectasias
- Gottron's sign or papules
- Shawl sign, V-sign, and holster sign
- Skin biopsy demonstrating reduced capillary density and deposits of membrane attack complex on small blood vessels along the dermal-epidermal junction and within the walls of dermal blood vessels

Additional Criteria

- Symmetrical muscle weakness in shoulders/upper arms or hips/upper legs and trunk
- Elevation of serum levels of skeletal muscle-associated enzymes: CK, aldolase, LD, transaminases
- Muscle pain on grasping or spontaneous pain
- EMG showing short, small, low-amplitude polyphasic motor unit potentials, fibrillation potentials, and bizarre high-frequency repetitive discharges
- Positive for myositis-specific autoantibodies
- Nondestructive arthritis or arthralgias
- Signs of systemic inflammation: fever, elevated CRP level, or accelerated ESR
- Muscle biopsy findings compatible with inflammatory myositis

Note: Amyopathic dermatomyositis (dermatomyositis without muscle pain and weakness) has unique diagnostic considerations.