

Papule

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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.

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Causal diseases

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

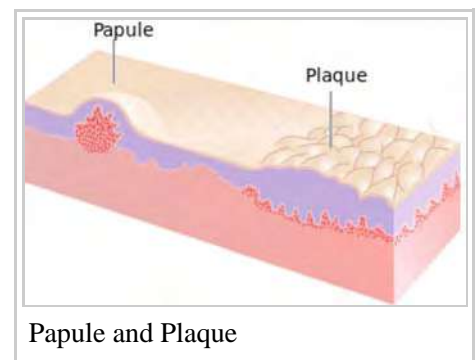
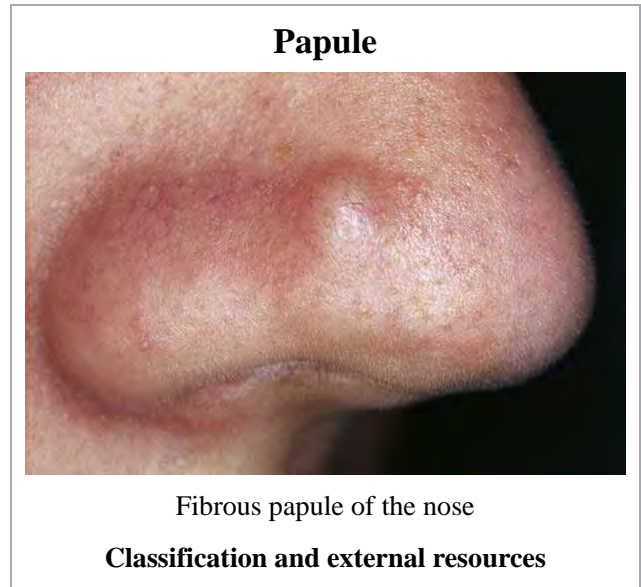
See also

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

Footnotes

- ↑ 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



1. <http://www.collinsdictionary.com/dictionary/english/papule>
2. James, William; Berger, Timothy; Elston, Dirk (2005) *Andrews' Diseases of the Skin: Clinical Dermatology* (10th ed.). Saunders. Page 15. ISBN 0-7216-2921-0.
3. "papule (https://archive.org/web/20090616022448/http://www.mercksource.com/pp/us/cns/cns_hl_dorlands_split.jsp?pg=/ppdocs/us/common/dorlands/dorland/six/000078021.htm)" at *Dorland's Medical Dictionary*

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Categories: Dermatologic terminology

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