



FIGURE 11-2: Burn degrees. (A) Burning of the top layer of skin is called a first-degree burn; it commonly causes red skin and swelling. (B) A burn that causes a blister is a second-degree burn; the blisters may open and ooze a clear fluid. This burn is often very painful. (C) A burn that removes the skin and tissue beyond it is a third-degree burn; the area looks brown, even charred.

Psoriasis

Psoriasis is a chronic inflammatory skin disease in which, for unknown reasons, the life cycle of skin cells is shortened (Fig. 11-3). Some investigators believe that the disease has a genetic factor, and others believe that environmental triggers exist. The normal life span of the skin cell is somewhere between 30 and 50 days. With psoriasis, the skin cell matures in 3 to 4 days. The dead skin cells in both healthy and psoriatic skin rise to the surface to be shed. Dead cells in this instance cannot be shed quickly enough, thus causing a buildup of skin cells on the surface. The dead cells take on a flaky white appearance atop a reddened (erythematous) plaque. Treatment of psoriasis may include topical