

Scabies

Definition

A contagious skin disease caused by a very small mite

Causes, incidence, and risk factors:

- Worldwide, all groups and ages.
- It is spread by direct contact with infected individuals and less often by sharing clothing or bedding.
- Sometimes whole families are affected.
- The mites that cause scabies burrow into the skin and deposit their eggs forming a characteristic burrow that looks like a pencil mark.
- Eggs mature in 21 days.
- The itchy rash is an allergic response to the mite.

- Mites maybe more widespread on a babies skin causing pimples over the trunk, or small blisters over the palms and soles.
- In young children, the head, neck, shoulders, palms and soles are involved. In older children, hands, wrists, and abdomen are involved.

Prevention

Avoid contact with infected persons, clothing and bedding.

Symptoms

- itching, especially at night
- thin, pencil-mark lines on the skin
- rashes
- Abrasions of the skin from scratching and digging

Signs and Tests

- Examination of the skin shows characteristic signs of scabies.
- Tests include microscopic examination of skin scrapings taken from a burrow.

Treatment

- Eliminate the infestation.
- Prescription creams and lotions are applied all over the body. T
- Treat the whole family and/or sexual partners of infected individuals, even if no symptoms are present.

- Change and launder all bedding and clothing.
- Itching may persist after treatment begins, but will disappear as treatment progresses.
- Itching can be minimized by **calamine lotions.**

Prognosis

- Scabies are annoying but not a serious disease.
- Resolve with treatment

Complications

A secondary skin infection can occur because of intense scratching.





Scabies burrow and pustules



Scabies Pustules