

Lifetime Medical Associates

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What is Impetigo?

Impetigo is a skin infection caused by two kinds of bacteria, staphylococci and streptococci. It comes as small blisters that are filled with clear liquid or yellow. These eventually break, leaving a crust of golden color.

Usually the blisters are not painful but can cause itching or burning sensation. They do not leave scars. Impetigo is more likely when the skin has been damaged; scratches or insect bites increase the risk. Impetigo spreads easily from person to person, especially among children. Its spread is more common when there are crowds of people.

What are the symptoms of impetigo?

Painless blisters that rupture, leaving a yellow crust in the affected areas.

What tests are needed?

You may be tested to confirm the infection or whether the infection is caused by streptococcus or staphylococcus. The doctor may take a sample of liquid inside a blister with a swab. He or she may also do blood or urine tests.

What treatment is needed?

- Impetigo should be treated quickly to prevent its spread and prevent more serious damage in the kidneys or the heart.
- Impetigo is treated with antibiotics that are administered in the form of skin cream or tablets.
- You should remove the crusts when the blisters break. To do this, soak the blister with a damp cloth and wash the area using an antibacterial soap.

Do

- Keep skin clean
- Return to the doctor if the infection does not improve
- Discuss with your doctor any other medications you are taking
- Consult your doctor if you do not feel better when taking medications for impetigo

Don't

- Do not break or scratch the blisters
- Do not interact closely with other people while you still have the blisters

Recovery Time

Impetigo responds rapidly to medical treatment, along with soaking and washing. Most cases disappear in 7-10 days.

What can be done to stop it from happening again?

- Thoroughly wash the scratches and cuts and insect bites
- Avoid close contact with someone who has impetigo
- Antibiotic cream applied inside the nose can prevent recurrences

Further information can be found at:

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Tel: 847-330-0230

Website: <http://www.aad.org>