

What is scabies?

Scabies is a contagious skin infection caused by a tiny parasite known as a mite. Mites can burrow into the skin and lay their eggs. This burrowing often causes a fine red, itchy rash known as a scabies infection.

What does a scabies infection look like?

The scabies mite may infect the entire body but usually first appears as a fine, red, itchy rash between the fingers: on the wrists or forearms; and on the inside of the thighs. A scabies infection can be very uncomfortable, especially at night when the itch is more intense or when increased scratching leads to a more serious skin infection.

How is scabies spread?

Scabies is spread by close personal contact with an infected person or articles of clothing used by an infected person. Often when one member of a family has scabies, it spreads to all family members. Scabies epidemics are quite common in large group environments such as schools.

How long does a scabies infection last?

Untreated, scabies can infect the entire body and the individual remains contagious and has the potential to infect others. Also, due to intense itch, scabies can result in a more serious skin infection unless it is properly treated. Proper treatment will get rid of the scabies mites almost immediately, and the rash and itching will fade away over the next few weeks.

What should you do if you suspect you or a member of your family has scabies?

If you suspect you have scabies, you should stay home from work or school until the infection has been properly treated. It is recommended that you contact your family doctor who will diagnose your condition and prescribe the appropriate treatment. Because scabies is so contagious, it is recommended that all members of the household receive treatment at the same time, even if itching does not occur.

What is the treatment for a scabies infection?

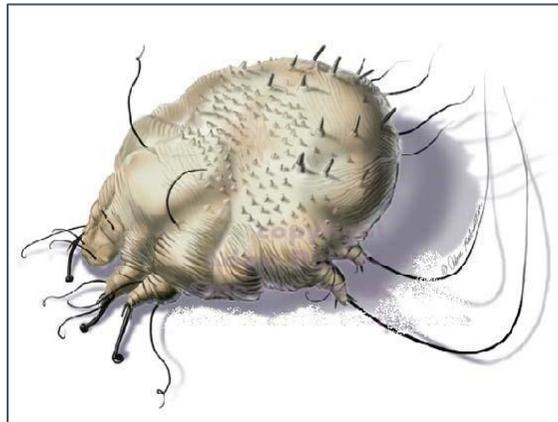
Scabies treatment involves eliminating the infestation with medications. Several creams and lotions are available. You usually apply the medication over all of your body, from your neck down, and leave the medication on for at least eight hours. Topical medications commonly prescribed for scabies include:

- **Permethrin 5 % (Elimite)**
- **Lindane.**
- **Crotamiton (Eurax).**

The oral medication ivermectin (Stromectol) for people with altered immune systems, people who have crusted scabies, or people who may not respond to the prescription lotions and creams. All clothing, bed linens, and towels used within 2 days prior to treatment should be machine washed in **hot** water and dried using hottest cycle for at least 20 minutes, or dry cleaned following treatment.

Itching may persist for a short while after treatment. This is normal and should not be interpreted as a treatment failure. Treatment should be repeated 7 to 10 after the initial treatment. You may return to work or school 24 hours after the initial treatment is completed. Once the second treatment is complete you should follow up with Darst Dermatology for assurance that treatment has been effective. Darst Dermatology- phone 704.321.3376

Scabies



DARST

DERMATOLOGY

