

NOTTINGHAM SUPPORT GROUP FOR CARERS OF CHILDREN WITH ECZEMA

In association with : Nottingham University Hospitals 
NHS Trust

Written by Professor Hywel Williams, Dr Ruth Murphy, Dr Jane Ravenscroft, Nurse Consultant Sandra Lawton and parents on behalf of the Nottingham Support Group for Carers of Children with Eczema.

IMPETIGO - Information for Parents

What is impetigo?

Impetigo is an infectious bacterial skin condition, which is common in children. It is usually caused by a bacterium called *Staphylococcus aureus* in the UK. Impetigo starts as small surface blisters which burst easily and then start to weep, leaving a golden-coloured crust. It can spread on the skin easily if not treated straight away. Impetigo can occur in healthy children without any previous skin problems, or it can occur in children who already have a skin condition such as eczema.

What treatment does my child need?

For more extensive impetigo, antibiotic medicines (syrup or tablets) are used. The one commonly used is Flucloxacillin. If your child is allergic to penicillin, then erythromycin can be given instead. Antibiotic creams such as mupirocin are used, especially for small areas.

What else should I do?

- As impetigo is infectious, we advise that your child does not mix with other children, go to school or nursery until they have had 2 days of antibiotics or the crusts are starting to disappear.
- Using separate towels and flannels may reduce the risk of spreading the infection.
- Washing your hands after contact is also very important.
- If your child has impetigo on the face, scalp and neck, check they do not have head lice. This is because impetigo can occur after the skin damage caused by scratching.
- If the impetigo is resulting from eczema, then extra effort at controlling the underlying eczema may be the key to clearing the problem.

Will the impetigo come back?

Very occasionally impetigo does come back. If this becomes a problem, discuss it with your doctor or nurse. They may:

- Take a skin swab to check the type of bacteria causing the impetigo as occasionally other bacteria such as streptococci may be causing the problem.
- Take a swab from other parts of your child's skin e.g. nose or armpits, to see if they are harbouring the bacteria there.

Is impetigo a sign of poor hygiene?

Not at all. Impetigo is very common in all children and it is easily spread. It has little to do with poor hygiene and lack of care. If your child has eczema, their skin is damaged so putting them at a higher risk of impetigo. Just follow our basic advice. If you have any questions, please contact your doctor or nurse.

For further advice please contact
Nurse Consultant Dermatology Sandra Lawton
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
Queen's Medical Centre
Clifton Boulevard
Nottingham
NG7 2UH

Email : pils@nottinghameczema.org.uk
Website : www.nottinghameczema.org.uk

For advice on support issues please contact the NSGCCE via the website www.nottinghameczema.org.uk and click on the contact icon



at the top of most pages or email us at

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