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Medical Parasitology

Skin infections and allergy caused by insects **Scabies**

3rd class

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Infestation and Transmission

- o Scabies can spread rapidly under crowded conditions where close body and skin contact is frequent. Humans are the source of scabies infestations.
- o Animals do not spread human scabies. Institutions such as nursing homes, extended-care facilities, and prisons are often sites of scabies outbreaks. Childcare facilities are also common sites of scabies infestations.

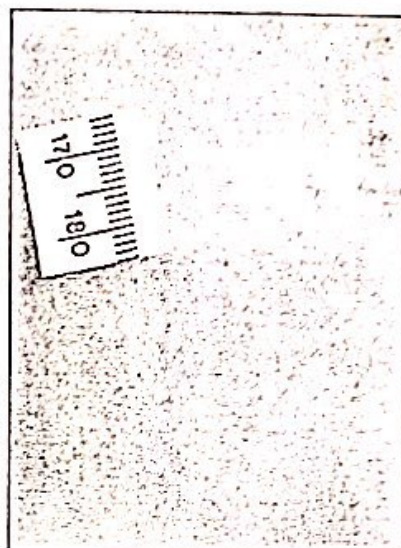
SCABIES **THE HUMAN ITCH MITE**

Scabies is an infestation by the itch mite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*. Mites are small eight-legged parasites (in contrast to insects, which have six legs). They are tiny, just 1/3 millimeter (32 inches) long, and burrow into the skin to produce intense itching, which tends to be worse at night. The mites that cause scabies are not visible with the naked eye but can be seen with a magnifying glass or microscope.



- o Some immunocompromised, elderly, disabled, or debilitated persons are at risk for a severe form of scabies called crusted, or Norwegian scabies.
- o Persons with crusted scabies have thick crusts of skin that contain large numbers of scabies mites and eggs (up to 2 million per patient).
- o The mites in crusted scabies are not more virulent than in non-crusted scabies, just much more numerous. Because of the large numbers of mites, persons with crusted scabies are very contagious to others.

PAPULAR SCABIES – MOST COMMON



Pruritic rash means an itching rash.

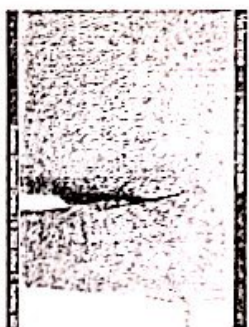
BULLOUS SCABIES



NODULAR SCABIES



NORWEGIAN OR CRUSTED SCABIES



CLINICAL SIGNS

- The most common symptoms of scabies are intense itching and a pimple-like skin rash.
- The itching can become severe, especially at night.
- The rash can appear as a pimple-like rash. Itching and rash may affect much of the body or be limited to common sites such as:

- Between the fingers
- Wrists
- Elbow
- Armpit
- Penis
- Nipple
- Waist
- Buttocks
- Shoulder blades



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SCABIES RASH



SCABIES DIAGNOSIS



- Confirmed by skin scrapings of papules or intact burrows
- Burrows and mites may be few in number (only 10-12) and difficult to find

SCABIES TREATMENT

- Besides medication including creams and pills.
- Wash linens and bedclothes in hot water.
- Mites don't live long away from the body, therefore not necessary to dry-clean the whole wardrobe, spray furniture/rugs and so forth.
- Application of scabicide over entire body below head by:
 - ❖ 5% permethrin cream (wash after 8-14 hrs).
 - ❖ 1% lindane cream (wash after 8-12 hrs)

APPLYING PRESCRIPTION CREAMS

- Follow package insert
- Apply thin layer over whole body from neck down, paying particular attention to folds in skin
- Trim fingernails and toenails, apply under nails
- Reapply after handwashing
- Leave on for at least 8 hours, but not longer than maximum time recommended for product
- Wash off with warm, soapy water and dry skin

- Ivermectin, single dose, orally
- Itching may continue for several weeks despite successful treatment
- In ~5% of cases, 2nd treatment may be necessary after 7-10 days.

SCABIES CONTROL

- Prompt diagnosis and treatment of patients
- Simultaneous, prophylactic therapy:
 - household members,
 - sexual contacts, and
 - caregivers with prolonged skin-to skin contact
- Launder all clothing worn within 48-72 hrs. of treatment in hot water and dry in hot dryer
- Thorough vacuuming of carpets and upholstered furniture