

Impetigo

Anyone Can Get It



What Is It:

Impetigo is caused by *Streptococcus* and *Staphylococcus* bacteria. Infection occurs when the bacteria gets into holes in the skin. These holes are caused by animal bites, human bites, insect bites, cuts, etc. This infection usually occurs in the summer. Impetigo usually results in a skin rash. This rash will be composed of mainly a cluster of red blisters or red bumps. These blisters can pop and ooze a yellow or honey-coloured puss. The infection is spread around by coming in contact with the puss or rash of the infected person.

Treatment:

A mild infection can be treated by a prescription antibacterial cream. For more severe infections, oral antibiotics may be prescribed. To drain the blisters, wash the skin (not scrub) several times a day.

Recovery:

Recovery should occur after a few days of taking antibiotics. The recovery process should not take more than 5-7 days. The skin rarely scars. Infection can come back in younger children but that is also rare.

Prevention:

To prevent impetigo, be sure to wash your hands frequently if you come in contact with an infected person. Antibiotics can also be used to prevent the infection from spreading.

Symptoms:

- A single or many blisters filled with yellow or honey-coloured puss
- Blisters are easy to pop and leave a reddish raw looking skin
- Inflammation of the skin on the face, lips, arms, and legs

Consult Doctor If:

- you have any symptoms of impetigo
- blisters do not go away after three days of taking antibiotics

