

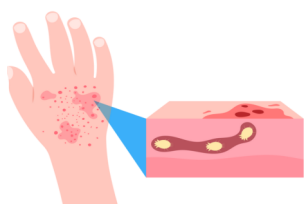
IPC Bulletin for GP Practice Staff

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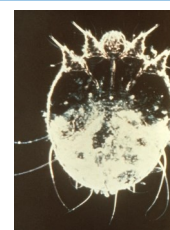


Scabies

Scabies is an extremely itchy skin disorder that leads to a rash. It is caused by a tiny parasite, *Sarcoptes scabiei*, a mite that burrows into and under the skin. Most of the symptoms are due to the body's immune response to the saliva, eggs and waste produced by the mites. A person can get scabies from close physical contact with someone with scabies for example, by hand holding for a prolonged period of time (approximately 10 minutes). It is difficult to recognise and is often attributed to other skin conditions leading to avoidable transmission.



- Itching is often worse at night.
- There are 2 forms of scabies caused by the same mite: classical (typical) and crusted.
- The mites can live away from a host for up to 4 days, but the role of bedding, clothing and/or towels in transmission is unclear.



Description	Classical scabies	Crusted scabies
Number of mites present?	<20.	1,000's or 1,000,000's of mites present in exfoliating scales of skin. It develops as a result of an insufficient immune response.
Who is vulnerable?	Anyone with direct prolonged skin-to-skin contact (approximately 10 minutes) with someone with scabies.	People with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A history of immunosuppression • Reduced ability to scratch • Dementia or Down's syndrome 40% of people with crusted scabies have no identifiable risk factor.
Incubation	3-6 weeks if a person has never had scabies. 1-4 days if a person has previously had scabies.	
Treatment	Standard treatment: 2 full body applications of Lyclear Dermal (permethrin 5%) for 8-12 hours, 1 week apart. Reapply to areas washed during treatment period, e.g. hands. Change clothing and bedding after each treatment. If crusted scabies is suspected, dermatological advice should be sought.	
Isolation	Standard infection control precautions. Avoid skin-to-skin contact until 24 hours following completion of first treatment.	Standard infection control precautions. Isolate in single room avoid skin-to-skin contact until treatment completed.
PPE	Avoid direct skin-to-skin contact. Disposable apron and gloves should be worn for direct contact and handling clothing, bedding, towels and soft furnishings.	
Treatment of contacts	Seek advice from your local Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) or UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Team.	
Environmental cleaning	Normal cleaning regime.	Increase frequency of vacuuming and deep clean after each treatment.

What's new

- **Hot off the press:** 'Preventing Infection Workbook: Guidance for General Practice 5th Edition' is now available. Further details available at www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/resources/preventing-infection-workbook-and-guidance-for-general-practice/.
- IPC training event for General Practice: 15th April, 2024, or 11th November 2024. A booking form can be downloaded at: www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk/events/

Visit our website to find lots of IPC resources, many of which are free to download.

www.infectionpreventioncontrol.co.uk

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