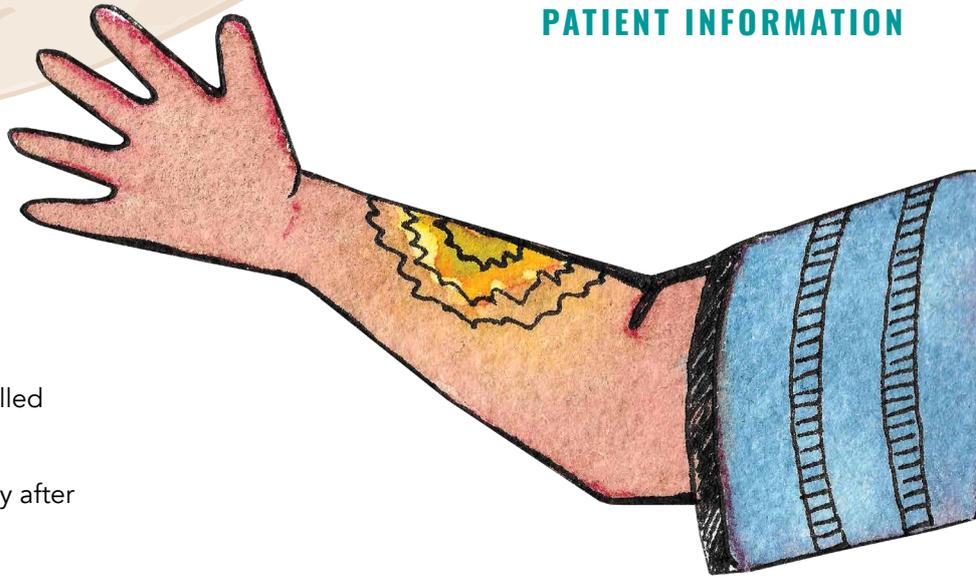


Impetigo



What is Impetigo?

Impetigo is a skin infection. It can also be called "school sores".

It's usually not serious and gets better quickly after treatment.

What causes Impetigo?

Impetigo is caused by two types of bacteria: staphylococcus or streptococcus.

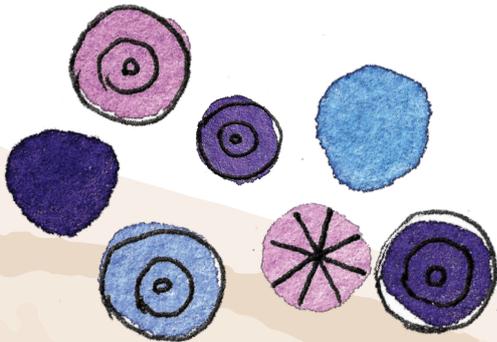
These bacteria live on healthy skin, in the nose, or in the throat, usually without causing problems. But sometimes they can cause infections, like impetigo.

How did I get Impetigo?

Impetigo spreads easily, especially between kids. It can start if you have a cut, bite, or scratch that lets the bacteria in.

You can also get Impetigo if you touch the fluid or crust from an infected sore, like:

- Someone scratching their sores and then touching you without washing their hands.
- Using clothes or towels that have touched a sore.
- Changing dressings from other people's sores.



Impetigo is treated with an antibiotic cream or antibiotics that you swallow.

It's very important to keep using the cream or taking the medicine until all the sores are healed.

How do I feel / How do I look with Impetigo?

Impetigo can show up anywhere, but it's usually on the face, arms, or legs.

There are two main types of impetigo

- Non-bullous Impetigo usually starts with small blisters or pimples that break open quickly and leave behind a golden-yellow crust.
- Bullous Impetigo causes larger, fragile, fluid-filled blisters that break easily, ooze a yellow liquid, and leave a ring-like scaly edge.

These sores can spread and can be itchy.

While Impetigo might look a bit scary, it's usually a mild infection that is easy to treat. Untreated it can lead to acute rheumatic fever or a severe skin infection like cellulitis.

How does the doctor know I have Impetigo?

It can be tricky to be sure if the sores are Impetigo, so it's important to get it checked out by your doctor or health care worker.

Sometimes, they might use a cotton swab to take a sample of the fluid for testing.

Talk to your healthcare worker about prevention, infection and disease spread.

How can we fix Impetigo?

Impetigo is treated with an antibiotic cream or antibiotics that you swallow.

It's very important to keep using the cream or taking the medicine until all the sores are healed.

Impetigo can spread to other people while the sores are wet or oozing, so keeping the sores dry helps them heal faster and stops the infection from spreading.

You can also:

- Wash the sores with soap and water regularly.
- Washing your hands regularly with soap and water.
- Soak off any crusty bits so the cream can work better.
- Try not to scratch – this can be tricky with young children, so you can try keeping their fingernails short and covering the sores with a dressing.
- Wash bedding and towels and hang to dry in the sun or use a hot setting on a clothes dryer.

It is very important that you keep your kids home from school, day care, or kindergarten until 24 hours after they start antibiotics.

After 24 hours, they can go back to school, but with the sores covered with a dressing.



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