

initial contact. (In persons previously sensitized to the mite, the inflammatory response occurs within 48 hours after exposure.) After this time, anywhere the mite has traveled will begin to itch and develop the characteristic eruption. Consequently, mites will not necessarily be located at all sites of eruption. A person needs prolonged contact with the mite to become infested. It takes about 45 minutes for the mite to burrow under the skin; consequently, transient body contact is less likely to cause transfer of the mite. The diagnosis is made by microscopic identification from scrapings of the burrow.

Therapeutic Management

The treatment of scabies is the application of a scabicide. The drug of choice in children and infants older than 2 months old is permethrin 5% cream (Elimite). Alternative drugs are 10% crotamiton (cream or lotion) or oral ivermectin. Lindane can be neurotoxic and is not recommended by the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(2015\)](#) for the treatment of scabies.

Oral Ivermectin may be used to treat scabies in patients with secondary excoriations for whom topical scabicides are irritating and not well tolerated or whose infestation is refractory. However, the safety and efficacy of ivermectin for children younger than 5 years old or children weighing less than 15 kg (33 lbs.) has not been established. Ivermectin is not ovicidal and must be repeated 1 to 2 weeks apart to be effective. Precipitated sulfur 6% in petrolatum may be used in children under 2 years old; it should be applied to the skin (and scalp in infants) for 3 days in a row, but it has an unpleasant smell and may cause skin irritation ([Haisley-Royster, 2011](#)). Crotamiton 10% cream is not approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for use in children but may be prescribed for adults with scabies.

Because of the length of time between infestation and physical symptoms (30 to 60 days), all persons who were in close contact with the affected child need treatment. This may include boyfriends or girlfriends, babysitters, grandparents, and immediate family members. The objective is to treat as thoroughly as possible the first time. Enough medication for the entire family should be prescribed, with 2 ounces allowed for each adult and 1 ounce for each child.