

Diaper rash:

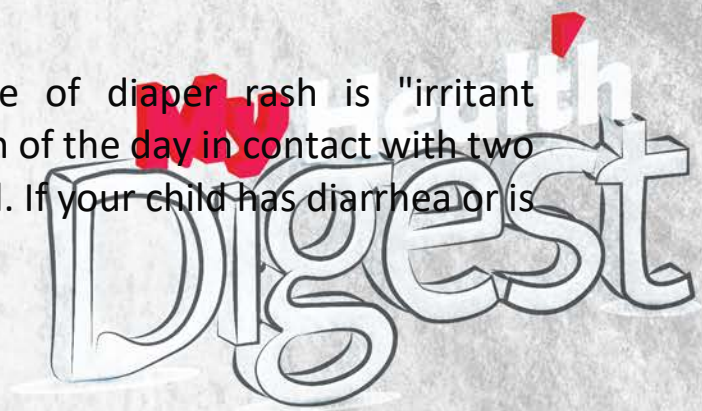
Diaper Rash is a common skin condition in infants. A diaper rash is dermatitis that occurs due to wearing diapers. There are different types of diaper rashes and different causes. It is often caused by wet diapers but could also have other causes that do not involve diapers.

Symptoms:

- Inflamed skin in the diaper area: buttocks, thighs and genitals
- Itchy, tender skin in the diaper area
- Sores in the diaper area
- Discomfort, fussiness or crying, especially during diaper changes

Causes of diaper rash:

Skin irritation: The most common type of diaper rash is "irritant dermatitis." The diaper area spends much of the day in contact with two very irritating substances: urine and stool. If your child has diarrhea or is



teething, the chance of developing a diaper rash is even greater. Irritant diaper rash looks like pink or red patches on the skin covered by the diaper.

Yeast infection: It is caused by overgrowth of a type of fungus found naturally in the digestive tract. Clues that the rash might be due to a yeast infection include shiny, bright red or pink patches with sharp edges. This rash may also have little pink bumps or pimples

Bacterial infection: Rarely, diaper rash can be caused by a bacterial infection.

Allergy: Occasionally, babies with sensitive skin may have an allergic reaction to a specific ingredient in diapers, wipes, and/or creams

Prevention:

The ultimate way to prevent diaper rash is to keep the diaper area clean and dry:

change diapers often, rinse your baby's bottom with warm water as part of each diaper change, gently pat the skin dry with a clean towel or let it air dry, apply cream, paste or ointment regularly, after changing diapers, wash your hands well, fasten diapers securely but not too tight.



Treatment:

Treatment depends on the type of inflammation. In cases of irritant dermatitis:

- Diapers should be changed frequently. They should not be left wet or dirty on the baby's skin for a long time.
- Allow your baby to spend more time without diapers on whenever possible.
- With every diaper change, wash the diaper area gently with warm water, and avoid soap (it can irritate the skin).
- Use an ointment containing zinc oxide with every diaper change.
- Choose diapers that are highly absorbent to help baby's skin stay moist.
- In the case of dermatitis resulting from a fungal or bacterial infection, certain types of antibiotics are prescribed by a pediatrician.

