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URL of this page: <https://medlineplus.gov/impetigo.html>

Impetigo

Impetigo is a skin infection caused by bacteria. It is usually caused by **staphylococcal** [<https://medlineplus.gov/staphylococcalinfections.html>] (staph) bacteria, but it can also be caused by **streptococcal** [<https://medlineplus.gov/streptococcalinfections.html>] (strep) bacteria. It is most common in children between the ages of two and six. It usually starts when bacteria get into a break in the skin, such as a cut, scratch, or insect bite.

Symptoms start with red or pimple-like sores surrounded by red skin. These sores can be anywhere, but usually they occur on your face, arms and legs. The sores fill with pus, then break open after a few days and form a thick crust. They are often itchy, but scratching them can spread the sores.

Impetigo can spread by contact with sores or nasal discharge from an infected person. You can treat impetigo with antibiotics.


Start Here

- About Impetigo [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/about/impetigo.html>] (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.cdc.gov/group-a-strep/es/about/acerca-del-impetigo.html>]
- Impetigo [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/impetigo.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/impetigo.html>]
- Impetigo [<https://skinsight.com/skin-conditions/impetigo/child/?lmiw9cApl=1>] (VisualDX)
- Impetigo: What to Know about This Common Skin Infection in Children [<https://www.healthychildren.org/English/health-issues/conditions/skin/Pages/Impetigo.aspx>] (American Academy of Pediatrics)
Also in Spanish [<https://www.healthychildren.org/spanish/health-issues/conditions/skin/paginas/impetigo.aspx>]

Treatments and Therapies

- Impetigo: Tips for Treatment and Prevention [<https://doctorsthatdo.osteopathic.org/impetigo-common-skin-infection-children>] (American Osteopathic Association)

Related Issues

- Group A Streptococcal Infections [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/diseases-conditions/group-streptococcal-infections>]
 (National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases)
- Staph Infections [<https://kidshealth.org/en/parents/staphylococcus.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/parents/staphylococcus.html>]

Journal Articles



References and abstracts from MEDLINE/PubMed (National Library of Medicine)

- Article: The global, regional, and national patterns of change in the burden...
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/39805883>]

Article: Prevalence and associated risk factors of scabies and impetigo: A cross-sectional...
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/38829884>]

- Article: Prevalence and determinants of impetigo in Ghana: a cross-sectional study.
[<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/38528449>]
- Impetigo -- see more articles [<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=%22Impetigo%22%5Bmajr%3Anoexp%5D+AND+humans%5Bmh%5D+AND+english%5Bla%5D+AND+%22last+2+Years%22+%5Bdat%5D+NOT+%28letter%5Bpt%5D+OR+case+reports%5Bpt%5D+OR+editorial%5Bpt%5D+OR+comment%5Bpt%5D%29+AND+free+full+text%5Bsb%5D+>]

Find an Expert

- American Academy of Dermatology [<https://www.aad.org/?NoAds>]
- National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<https://www.niaid.nih.gov/>] 
- National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/>] 
Also in Spanish [<https://www.niams.nih.gov/es/portal-en-espanol>]

Children

- Impetigo [<https://kidshealth.org/en/kids/impetigo.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/kids/impetigo.html>]

Teenagers

- Impetigo [<https://kidshealth.org/en/teens/impetigo.html>] (Nemours Foundation)
Also in Spanish [<https://kidshealth.org/es/teens/impetigo.html>]

Patient Handouts

- Ecthyma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000864.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000864.htm>]
- Impetigo [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000860.htm>] (Medical Encyclopedia)
Also in Spanish [<https://medlineplus.gov/spanish/ency/article/000860.htm>]



MEDICAL ENCYCLOPEDIA

Ecthyma [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000864.htm>]

Impetigo [<https://medlineplus.gov/ency/article/000860.htm>]

The primary NIH organization for research on *Impetigo* is the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases [<http://www.niaid.nih.gov/>]

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